

# RECREATION

— July 1937 —

## "We Have a Circus"

By Lotys Benning

## Marionettes on Wheels

By John M. Hurley

## Handicraft and Recreation

By Dr. Ernst Harms

## Tapping the Reserves of Power

By Ivah Deering

## The Recreation Executives Confer

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# RECREATION

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## Congress Afterthoughts

**M**EMBERS of the recreation profession were justly proud of their own number at the recent Recreation Congress at Atlantic City. V. K. Brown's emphasis on service as a form of recreation, of abundant living, thrilled his audience. Ernst Hermann, out of the wealth of his own personal experience and thought on recreation problems, pointed to the important part which creative use of one's hands has in building and keeping a life.

Dr. James S. Plant, though not a professional recreation worker, has been closely associated with the recreation family, speaks our language, understands what recreation workers are trying to do. At the Congress Dr. Plant ably advanced the philosophy of Joseph Lee, of Jacob Riis, of Jane Addams, of Robert Woods in pleading against regimentation in all its forms, against making technique all supreme, against the assumption of all-wisdom on the part of recreation workers. The philosophy of the play-recreation movement has been Jesus' philosophy of rich abundant living. It has been the philosophy of Aristotle in recognizing time as the great wealth, and training for the use of time, of leisure, as the end of education. It has been the philosophy of Froebel and of Emerson and of Lincoln. There has ever been recognition of the individual, of helping the individual to build his own life, to be himself. It has not been so much the philosophy of doing things for people, of making people over according to one's own ideals, one's own pattern, for ends foreign to the individual, but rather of helping each person to use all his powers in so far as he does not interfere with allowing others to be themselves, to realize themselves.

I remember in 1917 or 1918 Myron T. Herrick's reporting a conversation with the late George F. Baker, Jr., in which Mr. Baker told Mr. Herrick he had thought the recreation movement aimed to make people goody-goody and this had greatly antagonized him. Mr. Baker was enthusiastic for a program for giving people an opportunity for happy activity, but he did not like the idea of trying to make people over according to some one else's idea. I rather sensed from what Ambassador Herrick said that George F. Baker, Jr., did not want others making him over and he did not want to support any movement for making other people over. In other words he had respect for human personality—his own and others. One felt this understanding in Dr. Plant's address.

Rabbi Silver, like Dr. Plant, has for years belonged in a peculiar sense to the recreation movement. Again this year he dealt with fundamentals. Man's enduring satisfactions through the centuries are to be found in democracy and under self-government and it is important that the recreation movement be true to its own nature and neither condone nor give aid to the world forces that are making for centralization of power and using human beings for ends that are not their own.

The recreation movement does have a philosophy of freedom, of cooperation, of individualism, of democracy, of helping men to help themselves in long-time ways rather than trying by tricks or techniques of group pressure to assume the wisdom to make men over without their knowledge or desire.

The philosophy of the recreation movement is the philosophy of long-time growth — not of sudden off-the-top changing of men's lives.

There is a deep unity in the movement which comes from its common traditions and philosophy. This unity one felt at the recent Congress. One also felt a deep faith in what the people themselves will ultimately do for themselves through their own local government.

HOWARD BRAUCHER.

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JULY 1937

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July



*Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts*

## YOUTH

"Youth is not a time of life—it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of ripe cheeks, red lips and supple knees. It is a temper

of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is a freshness of the deep springs of life."—*S. Ulman.*



# Tapping the Reserves of Power

By IVAH DEERING

**T**HE PEOPLE of America are living a horse and buggy spiritual life on a 1937 emotional speedway.

True, in times of major catastrophe we grow mental, physical and spiritual wings for a day or a week, achieve deeds of heroism, rise to heights of accomplishment for which we did not dream we had the power. Even the weak heart responds to the temporary demands of the rescue work of a great flood. The invalid mother carries a family through an epidemic of influenza before she herself collapses. The young man who was at the point of suicide gives his entire emotional strength to the little children left fatherless by a forest fire. There are known cases of complete physical recovery after a demand which in normal times would have been impossible to meet; then when the crisis passes, a retrogression to a dead level of existence.

Yesterday, after ten days of night and day service for homeless victims of a disaster, Guiseppi entered my home with a light in his eye and a vitality in his step, not to mention the nobility of his whole aspect, that I would not have thought possible in one whom I had known last week as a "rough-neck" who took his recreation and his refreshment of spirit from a bottle. What will Guiseppi do tomorrow when the emergency demand is past? Will any of the new current remain to enrich his life and make it yield a measure of satisfaction? Or will the same spiritual poverty manifest itself which is evidenced by the kind of leisure time activity chosen even by recreation leaders and experts for their own personal use?

We are a lethargic people, loath to tap the great sources of power which lie deep within the individual, dormant but ready for utilization in his everyday life when discovered and conserved and rerouted over adequate wiring.

## New Strengths Demanded

This is a new age—an age of power unguessed by our fathers. The ninth grade boy knows more about the great forces of nature today than you and I know, for all our years of experience. It is

a new world which they take in their stride, naturally, easily, up to a certain point. But it is like the cable

which is made up of strands covered by an outer coat of protective material. Its full strength or weakness can be known only when a test is made. And this new world constantly demands of the man or woman new strengths to meet the tests of an age of power.

There was a time when school and leisure time leaders could "pass the buck" to the home and the church to build up the character of the boy and girl to meet those tests. Then they could forget about it. But this age of power touches every individual too closely to admit of shifting responsibility.

The church is in the midst of metamorphosis and cannot be counted upon to interpret its purpose in terms of practical development of individual power until the new conception of the motives of their Leader is more generally accepted. The integration of the whole man can be ap-

proached only by a recognition of the close association of the mental and the emotional, or, we may say, the spiritual. It may be that the church is on the way to that recognition, but the time is not yet.

The home, too, is in a process of changing form. Its very outline grows dim before our eyes. Frequently the home is an automobile, a trailer, one tenement room, perhaps even a city park. It is ridiculous and juvenile to attempt to hold the ancient institutions to the same form and outline as were common a century ago. To do so means rebellion and revolution too violent to accomplish progress. If, however, this home of today can be visualized as not a place, but an atmosphere, an influence, yet still the source of the greatest power or weakness inherent in an adult being, we have accepted a rational point of view which ultimately may bring about some progress in human development.

The emotional trend of the individual is still molded by the atmospheres of his first few years. Conflict, insecurity, frustration, bear disastrous fruit in an unsuccessful life. Recreational activi-

Mrs. Deering, who lives in Cincinnati, is the author of "The Creative Home" and other books and magazine articles. She has a wide knowledge of the fields of education and recreation.

ties may in themselves be good, but fail to develop strengths because of the attitude of the group in which the child takes part in the activity. The growth of emotional power can no longer be left to chance, for while the home of today may be negative, the influences and tensions of the world without are distinctly positive. Character is something more than conforming to the mores of the adults of a community. It is a matter of building up strengths and discovering the latent powers and possibilities of every girl and boy.

We have scarcely glimpsed the possibility that lies in the human being. We prefer to accept the superman as a genius or a prophet rather than the product of definite laws and circumstances which can be reproduced in increasing numbers if truly desired. Perhaps we are fundamentally a lazy people. The responsibility for creating as a norm a person who is of the calibre which we now term superman is too much for the mind to grasp, too great a task for leaders to undertake with their present limited use of their own powers.

We have accepted the fact that the age of machinery and the half-turned bolt is an age of tensions and strains; that the speed of the world today forces the human being to find his balance in his leisure time, but we have spoken in terms of games and activities only, with little analysis of and appreciation for the significance or value of the task of any leader of leisure time activities.

Marking time is a bore, whether it is done on the parade ground or in the classroom or playground. The great pioneer leaders took the time to awaken in their people an understanding of what was the ultimate goal of any journey, and so they were inured to hardship, long hours and suffering. So much of the cheapness of attitude, the spiritual poverty of recreation leaders would be dissipated if they could be chosen with greater care, injected with the virus of understanding and challenged to the exercise of that courage which Miss Earhart tells us "is the price that life exacts for granting peace, and release from little things."

#### Levels of Power

It takes courage and understanding to vision recreation as the release of energy which will set men on the trail to high endeavor. James it was who told us of the many levels of power in terms of the man who climbs a mountain, gives out at the first spur, then gets his second wind, a strength

he had forgotten or never knew, and goes on to the top. I have a vivid childhood recollection of a great fire when a frail elder sister and I carried innumerable buckets of water across the field and up a ladder to a smoldering barn—unaccustomed labor, too difficult for a child, but leaving no dire results. I have seen a hobo, ragged and unkempt, dive into a stream and rescue a little child, then lounge on down the tracks with downcast eyes.

There are many recognized methods of discovering and using these levels of emotional force. Some are scientific, some chance only: The Holy Roller meeting where the sot became "sanctified" and in the grip of a spiritual ecstasy, was for a week a model of sobriety; the withdrawal of Gandhi into the wilderness or into the meditation from which he emerges with a new poise and command of his people; Christ entering his Gethsemane, the yogi, his silence. Hypnosis is increasingly used to tap hidden resources and adjust the disintegrated individual.

Various religious sects base their astounding but none the less real results on the same principle—whether it is called "getting in tune with the infinite," or accepting Christ, or "casting out error." The modern psychiatrist uses the same principle and in a new science has gone far to explain and rationalize and make available for use this latent power over routes heretofore called spiritualistic or psychic.

This delving into the darkness of the human mind by the psychiatrist with inadequate knowledge is somewhat dangerous. There is today a great fear of psycho-analysis, lest the power discovered be too great for the frail emotional wires builded for a weaker current to withstand. Eventually the scientific technique will be perfected, however, and made available to the common man. At present it can, at its best, reach only a small few.

It remains then for the leaders of growth, through school or leisure time activities, to discover some less complete but scientific approaches to the problem which will go a little way on the road to the development of supermen and women as a norm of existence. Two great experiments are being tried here and there, with inadequate understanding of the implications and none too intelligent leadership. These two alone will we mention in this article: the use of the free discussion method of education for adults and creative expression for child and adult.

### Education for Adults

We are still impregnated with the virus of facts, and with those adults who in their free time come to evening classes eager for learning and some solution of their boredom there has been a continuation of the "pouring in" process. The reasons are obvious. The leaders available are the teachers already in our public schools and trained for a classroom procedure. Then, may I repeat, mentally we are a lazy people. It is far easier to teach history by a textbook and examination method than to face the sometimes confusing facts and questions that will inevitably come out of the living experience of grown men and women where freedom of discussion is given. Leaders are still afraid to say "I don't know" and to seek together for the truth. Are they afraid to lose the domination upon which they have heretofore relied?

Still another deterrent to a more complete use of discussion is the time element. Growth is slow and none too regular. The awareness of the timid little man who sits in a group for a year before he evolves an idea and gains the courage to express it, is vital to his development and may add to the sum total of human knowledge, but in the wait for this one moment there is weariness and labor.

On the other hand, the results are well worth the weariness and the labor: for while in the academic method of adult education the learning process tends to stop at the door of the classroom—if, in truth, it ever entered—that man or woman who takes part wholeheartedly in group discussion is stimulated to continue his research, for his questions are never wholly answered for him. He is left by the true leader of discussion with a challenge to find out for himself the answer which he seeks. To point the road to learning, unafraid that the goal attained may be one foreign to the experience of the leader; to trust fully the integrity of mind, the possibility for growth in the human being, this it is which must be the chief ability of the leader of the future, particularly in the field of adult education. When the American or the European or the Oriental mind is truly free to seek far and find all the facts about a moot question, I am not fearful of the results. The only real danger lies in an attempt to predigest and predetermine the bits of knowledge that the adult is to be given.

In minor degree this is also true of the education, through school or play, of the child. We are still seeing bogey-men, still afraid to trust the free



*Courtesy Childhood Education*



mind to adjust itself to changing situations; still routing heavy emotional voltage over wires small and inadequate; still refusing to release the true power in any but the exceptional child. These fears are juvenile and unworthy of true leaders of growth.

### Creative Expression

The second method which is open to recreation leaders in particular, as it is to parents, is the understanding use of creative expression. The word understanding has been used with intent, for we have reached a point in school and playground and home, where the term "creative" has become jargon. To copy the work of another is not to create. Yet there are today, meeting here and there over the land, hundreds of children in classrooms, sitting hunched over a table, all with the same size papers, the same pencils, the same order for production, the same model and the same standard, offered by a superior being called a teacher or playground director, without choice by the child.

I have visited classes called "creative hours" to which the little child went reluctantly, and from which he emerged unrefreshed, tired, full of hatred for creative expression. It may be you have entered a poetry class, where the teacher, with a program prescribed by a curriculum committee for mass production, tells the class to write a poem about a flower in fifteen minutes. The result is twenty-five jingles with no possible resemblance to poetry, but with second and fourth lines rhyming beautifully—an exercise, if you please, in agility, but not in creative expression. Yet it is not the exceptional child alone who writes lovely verse, but the ordinary girl and boy of five, or eleven, or fourteen, who has been familiar from his birth with beauty, has not been frightened, who has heard his Stevenson and his Field, and who has time enough to himself to think naturally in rhythm (but not always in rhyme). Few true artists ever paint or write or compose to order, but out of their experience, with exposure to the best in their line, and some training; even more important, with much encouragement to improve and to measure up to their own standards.

This procedure, like the discussion method for

"Creative expression is a sound line of exploration into the hidden powers of human beings. He who creates any bit of beauty out of himself becomes for the time a god. Can you forget the face of the urchin who gathers a handful of clay on the mountain side and fashions therefrom a horse or a figure of Pan? Have you never felt the surge of new strength when out of struggle and suffering you have jotted down a combination of words which is your own and filled with life's rhythm? Perhaps it is better in many cases that no one shall ever see it. The effort to meet the standard of some one else too frequently kills the spirit of the venture."

adults, is the difficult way and takes much time and effort. There must be a new alignment of emphasis, with production in quantity less important, with exposure to the good continuous and consistent, with leaders trained to be true teachers, who know the technique of leading out, rather than copying or pouring in. The degree today signifies familiarity with book facts,

but not necessarily with living experience. As the requirements for a degree increasingly include familiarity with the laws of growth, then there will be new meaning to the term "trained leadership," and we may with safety demand degrees from those who deal with children. At present, however, the success or failure of a director of recreation or a teacher in the development of emotional power in individual children, is a matter of understanding and of personality, rather than degrees, and we shall be wise if we place the major emphasis on the content of the training.

### What of the Recreation Leader?

A new play instructor comes in my neighborhood. The first thing he requires is equipment. Yet the true play leader requires little tangible equipment. His equipment should lie more fully within himself. Is he truly interested in his job? Is he alert, with sufficient intelligence to read and understand a few experts in creative play? Has he the power of analysis which will enable him to read the meanings of experience? Has he a deep humility and an understanding of the possibilities of actual knowledge (from where, Heaven knows) which the youngest child possesses? Plato told us that the only true philosopher was a little child. Yet adults go about proving their superiority, forgetting to learn from the child as they run.

To create anything is to grow, to adventure, to feel success and power and a measure of security—almost the whole need of human beings. To lead a child or an adult to create beauty is to share in that great power which moves the world. The playground leader has a great opportunity to discover the reserves which will guide people through economic depressions. To develop the

(Continued on page 258)



# We Went to Atlantic City!

**T**HE TWENTY-SECOND National Recreation Congress was all and more than it promised to be!

From the first moment one set foot in the lobby of the popular Ambassador Hotel in Atlantic City up to the final farewell at the end of the much-too-short conference, public recreation, its contributions and problems, led the way. The Congress itself was ample evidence that its planners chose a perfect theme in "The Importance of Recreation in Modern Life."

"The World's Greatest Playground," as Atlantic City is so frequently labeled, with its eight miles of boardwalk and the blue Atlantic at its feet is attraction enough for anyone, whether he be interested in recreation or not. No wonder then that hundreds of men and women, connected with or interested in the recreation movement, from every corner of the United States and Canada made their way toward this famous resort.

That the Congress was as practical as it was inspirational was noticeable through the common denominator in recreation problems from recreation executives all over the nation. And although hundreds of these "stickers" were similar in nature, the answers were by no means universal—a situation which to the observer appears to reflect a healthy condition of the recreation movement and a worthy instrument in the Congress in broadcasting it.

The meeting had its list of celebrities, all of whom earned their way on the program not only because of their outstanding personalities, but because they had a sympathetic understanding and appreciation of the objectives of public recreation, and because they *are* leaders in this business of life. Dr. John Finley, in his rôle of general meeting chairman, added that certain warmth that so many of us would travel thousands of miles to feel. Gov. Harold G. Hoffman was present to envelop the delegates with the hospitality that his state is called on so often to give. Dr. James S. Plant, Aubrey Williams, Dr. Edwin C. Broome and those two well-known professional

By CHARLES K. BRIGHTBILL

executives, V. K. Brown of Chicago and Ernst Hermann of Boston University, were among the

persons delivering keynote messages. Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver returned to his third recreation congress to deliver a most interesting address on "Life in a World of Confusion." Among others, Mrs. Mina M. Edison-Hughes told the delegates why she believed in the National Recreation Association. It was a splendid contribution, touching upon that which so many of us know but seldom think about—that the National Recreation Association stands alone in the incomparable contributions it makes to the recreation movement.

As in former years, the work of the Congress for the most part was conducted in discussion groups, each with a qualified presiding officer, several discussion leaders and a summarizer. "Recreation Requirements for Modern Youth," "Recreation in American Family Life," "Present Problems in Rural Recreation," "Camping in the Recreation Program," "Program Planning," "What Legislative Action Is Necessary for Adequate Recreation Service Today?" "General Tax Problems," "Federal Grants," "Personnel Problems," "Emergency Recreation Programs," and a number of others were among the twenty-six topics scheduled for discussion. (The writer says "scheduled for discussion" because there were probably twenty-six hundred informal discussions in little groups that gathered outside of the regular meetings.) The National Recreation Congress could be justified alone on its affording a time and place where one meets old friends, sees new faces and finds attentive ears.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding sessions from the standpoint of growth of interest on the part of the layman or unpaid worker was that of "Problems of Board Members," conducted, organized and operated by board members from various sections of the country—people who left their daily positions, journeying hundreds of miles to discuss the problems of recreation. This meeting was "the top." The

**We wanted our readers to have a bird's-eye view of the National Recreation Congress at Atlantic City, so we asked Mr. Brightbill, Superintendent of Public Recreation in Decatur, Illinois, to send us some of his impressions of the Congress. Mr. Brightbill, in his account, says that a volume might be written on the proceedings of the Congress. A volume *has* been written and is now ready for distribution. In it you will find the addresses of the general meetings and the summaries of the group discussion sessions. Order your copy of the *Congress Proceedings*. It may be secured for \$1.00.**

old "bugaboo" of board members remaining too long at one post and the part politics should and should not play in the work, came in for a bombardment of discussion. And new social trends as they affected public recreation were as evident here as they were elsewhere.

It would be just a bit misleading to leave the reader with an impression that the Congress was all "business," for recreation executives lean toward recreation for themselves occasionally. Thus, twenty or thirty minutes before the convening of the general assembly each day, Mr. Augustus Zanzig, the National Staff music specialist, waved his hands, struck a chord, and the entire Congress keyed itself for the evening to the tune of "Ciri-biribin" and "Shortnin' Bread." Then, too, Tuesday evening, after the evening program, an hour of social recreation activities was held in the hotel's beautiful Renaissance Room. Also on the Congress's social schedule was the dance

held the following evening (and there were no wall-flowers!). Not satisfied with a few hours of "tripping the light fantastic," twenty or thirty remained after the orchestra disbanded and gathered about the piano to revive vocally "Down By the Old Mill Stream," "On the Road to Mandalay," and a number of the other well known airs.

If you were one of those who arose with the morning sun, you rode a bicycle on the boardwalk, a pony on the beach, or perhaps, you dipped in the Ambassador's salt water pool. These many recreational opportunities made it easy to believe that the place was "the world's playground."

More attractive than ever were the Congress's exhibits. The National office presented a beautiful and practical display of records, reports and forms from local communities, access to which was difficult most the time because of the many

persons eager to absorb its contents. The governmental agencies, manufacturers and miscellaneous exhibitors displayed their wares in keeping with the theme and good taste of the Congress. The writer, as usual, returned from these booths with stacks of literature and new ideas to keep him busy six months.

One could write a dictionary-size volume on the proceedings of this year's meeting, and two on the value of it, but must be content to say that with the government's part in the recreation picture, with the constant economic and social future of the nation presenting new and different problems



Much of the discussion at the Recreation Congress was directed toward finding the best means of providing recreational opportunity for boys and girls, and of opening for them the door to happier living.

in the life of this fast-growing infant, public recreation, and with a million and one new challenges and questions of jurisdiction facing the nation today, one knows at a glance that recreation has an important place in our modern life and the National Recreation Congress this year was permeated with the very essence of it.

NOTE: The illustration which appears on this page is used through the courtesy of the Recreation Commission of Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

# The Recreation Executives Confer

**O**N MONDAY, MAY 17th, preceding the opening of the Recreation Congress at Atlantic City, an all day meeting of superintendents of recreation was held for the discussion of subjects which the executives had themselves selected. This year the plan was followed of having one chairman for all the sessions throughout the day. V. K. Brown, Chief, Recreation Division of the Chicago Park District, presided at all the meetings.

## What Should Be the Scope of a Recreation Department? What Should Come Under Its Jurisdiction?

WALTER SCOTT, *Coordinating Director for School and Municipal Recreation, Long Beach, California*: When we talk about the scope of the recreation department, I think we are bound down to a certain extent by tradition and by practice, sometimes by prejudices and sometimes by systems of cost accounting which embarrass us when we take on too much of a program. Perhaps the best way to discuss this is to analyze critically each of these various activities that we have in our minds from four viewpoints:

First, is it primarily a Recreation Department function?

Second, by what agency can this particular thing that we have in mind be best administered, by a park commission, park board, board of education, recreation commission or whatnot?

Third, would duplication of effort be curtailed if this new activity were taken over by the recreation department?

Fourth, if this activity were added to your department, what would this do to your per capita cost and to your unit of recreation cost? When you have to talk to city managers and commissions and councils about the money, it becomes a little different story.

I want to give you just this thought with reference to what it does to costs and then attack the problem from a slightly different angle. I know that in a certain Western city of roughly

**On finance, "trends," needs of youth, workers' salaries and a hundred and one other matters of mutual interest!**

155,000 population, the municipal recreation budget for next year is going to be \$126,000. That will mean a per capita cost of approximately 81 cents. City managers, councilmen, commissioners, boards of edu-

cation, have the habit very frequently of asking, "What are your per capita costs?" It is very nice to say 81 cents, but it would be very embarrassing to say \$2.50, especially if your neighboring city of comparable size has a per capita cost of 60 cents.

Let us see what happens when we take over a lot of these services. In this case, as we have said, the recreation budget for next year will be \$126,000. The park budget for maintenance will be \$95,000, the lifeguard service \$50,000, the municipal paid band \$60,000 and the golf expenditures in the neighborhood of \$50,000, or a total of \$381,000, all for recreation in that city of 155,000.

Now, you see, if you went before your Board, you would be embarrassed by saying the per capita cost for recreation in this city of 155,000 is \$2.45. Let us say golf is a form of recreation which tends to balance because the income and expenditures are nearly equal. Let us take golf out of that picture and reduce it, and the cost will still be over \$2 per capita, in other words, exactly \$2.13.

But here is the point: In that city today, they are able to say to the Council and these government agencies that the per capita cost for recreation in this city is only 81 cents, because they do not have to pay for the maintenance of parks, the service of the lifeguards, the professional band or the golf course. Let us analyze these activities quickly from the viewpoint of whether or not we should take them over.

Golf: Should recreation departments be responsible for golf? Well, first of all, let us submit it to our four tests. It is primarily a recreation. Second, it perhaps could be best administered by a municipal recreation department, in some cases by park boards. Third, some duplication of effort no

**This year, as in past years, the plan was followed at the meeting of superintendents of recreation, of having each subject presented by a recreation executive. This presentation was then followed by as much general discussion as time would permit. We have attempted in this report to give the salient points brought up by the group.**



doubt would be eliminated in many communities if it were taken over by the recreation department. Fourth, what does it do to your cost? In the average Western community today, I think that the cost tends to balance. In one city I know of, of about 160,000, the income is \$50,000 a year and the outgo is \$49,000 a year. Therefore, I would say golf probably could very nicely come within the scope of a municipal recreation department.

Now, about the general maintenance of the parks. First of all, submit it to the four tests. Is the maintenance of parks primarily a recreation function? I would say it is not. Second, how could the maintenance of parks be best administered? Probably by a park commission or a park board. Third, would any friction or duplication of effort be avoided if it were taken over by the municipal department? I would say yes, in many cases. Fourth, how would it affect your cost in recreation, your unit cost and your per capita cost? In our community it would practically double them. Where we have about 75 cents per capita today, it would be about \$1.50 if we took over the maintenance of parks. Therefore, I personally am satisfied to leave the maintenance of parks where it is, with the Park Board.

Next, the question of piers comes up. Should a recreation department take over piers? Piers usually are not primarily recreational facilities. In some places where they have fishing piers, I find instances in which they have recreational facilities and commercial attractions. Would friction be avoided if we took them over? I think we would get a lot of friction in many cases by taking them over. What does it do to our cost? It is almost a dead loss because if any of you know how rapidly deterioration sets in and you also know what that will do to your per capita cost. Therefore I say piers should be left out and taken care of perhaps by the public service department of the city or by other bodies.

The next item is, public dances. We do not conduct the public dance. We are supported by an automatic tax levy and there are a good many commercial dance hall interests which pay taxes to help support us. The time is not yet ready to take over that service. We feel that we could do a better job than most commercial interests are doing in many cases, and the young people perhaps would like it better, but we have to keep hands off for the time being. Where we can conduct these community dances without creating

friction in the community we should perhaps do so.

How about trailer camps? In some communities where they cater to tourists they are maintaining them. In most communities they are saying that it is a private business and we should keep hands off.

How about zoos? They are in the class of museums and they are too expensive for us to take over because it would double, if not triple, our recreational costs.

Lifeguards, bands (municipal and private), bath houses and cabanas, restaurant concessions, classes in tap dancing, social dancing, folk dancing; What should be the scope of this thing we call municipal recreation? It is a deep subject, but I say that when in doubt take over only those things that meet the four tests: is it primarily a recreation function; second, does it do funny things to your recreation costs and thereby defeat your whole program; third, are you including a great many things on which you cannot do a first-class job. In other words, let us keep quality as a major consideration and let us work in harmony with other boards and commissions as long as we have to do so, and up to the point where it becomes reasonable and feasible for us to take over these different types of activity.

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Following Mr. Scott's paper there was some discussion of the subject as to whether recreation departments are justified in setting up types of activities which are not generally regarded as recreational. It was the feeling of the meeting that any interpretation of recreation must cover the use of leisure time for intellectual satisfaction as well as for motive or creative satisfactions. The interpretation of recreation in relation to intellectual satisfaction is a matter which will evolve over the years.

#### What Is the Trend in the Administration of Public Recreation?

W. DUNCAN RUSSELL, *General Director, Community Service of Boston*: The conservative point of view, of course, is that it does not make very much difference. As long as the best interests of the people of a given community are being served, one type of administration is as good as another. On the other hand, I think if the executives found that any particular type of agency was not doing the job to meet the best interests of the people of a given community, then it would



be important to make some decision as to the type of agency to be doing the job.

I have divided the subject into two divisions: One, trends in fact, and two, trends in thinking. The facts show a trend towards administration of recreation by school boards and a slight decline on the part of all other types of agencies. I will give you the facts.

In 1930, there were 233 cities that showed recreation administered by recreation boards or commissions. In 1936, there was a decrease to 225. In 1930, 234 cities showed administration of recreation by park authorities as compared with 208 cities in 1936. In 1930, there were 29 cities reporting administration by park and recreation boards and in 1936, 28. In 1930, there were 141 cities which reported administration of recreation by school boards and in 1936, 197 cities or an increase of 58. Now, these facts especially as they relate to park boards are not entirely convincing because in 1936 park authorities were called upon to make another report for the municipal park study.

There are other figures which show the increase or decrease in the number of cities reporting one or more full-time workers employed by different types of agencies. In general, all types of agencies report an increase between 1930 and 1936 in the number of cities that have one or more full-time recreation workers employed by these different types of authorities, except the recreation boards, which were fewer by one in 1936.

When it comes to the question of trends in thinking on this matter of administration of public recreation, I am in a fairly good position to know how our educators and superintendents of schools are thinking about the school in the administration of recreation, because about a month and a half ago I sat in with the Educational Policies Commission in Washington and heard discussed the relationship between education and recreation.

I came there fully prepared to say, naively, that since the schools were still engaged in training processes for the most part, perhaps from the standpoint of administration of recreation, they ought to stick to that part of recreation which deals with training, training for leisure. We give them the after-school play and the recess play; we might give them the children during the summer time, but the training process is involved. However, I was very quickly told in Washington by the educators that education was rapidly getting away from the training process and that it would

only be a short time before you could not distinguish between the educational approach and recreational approach. One speaker went so far as to say that education ought to control just about everything in our municipal government except public works, possibly, and police and fire, but certainly the libraries and recreation and anything that touched on education from childhood to old age.

So we have a definite trend in thinking on the part of educators which gives recreation to the school systems, not because they are particularly well prepared for it now but on the ground that they are rapidly getting away from education as a training process and they are approaching their duty idealistically. Education is living and we ought to put recreation there because ultimately it belongs there and ultimately it will get there.

The trend away from school control is supported by the fact that education will be stamped with the training process during our lifetimes and possibly during the next fifty years. As such, it is psychologically opposed to the recreational approach which is stamped with the good time or the play atmosphere. Education is geared to a system of measured results and even our most progressive schools are a little wary of going too far with this idea of freedom for fear some of their students will not pass the college board examinations.

What is the trend towards control by public welfare boards, as advocated by many experts in municipal government? Now, from our experience with public welfare boards, the rôle that they usually play is that of overseers of the poor, handing out of direct relief, so I can hardly see why we should consider that recreation should be attached to a public welfare board, if it functions in that way.

However, if we consider public welfare from the standpoint of the general community good, the interpretation that possibly the Constitution of the United States would put on it in speaking of public welfare—and they are talking in Washington of setting up a definite department, possibly a cabinet position, on public welfare—perhaps we recreation executives would be wise if we looked with more favor on administration of recreation by public welfare boards. Undoubtedly if such a department were started, there would be a division on recreation. We would have an opportunity to secure a more dignified position for recreation,

gaining more recognition and appreciation for the field as a separate entity in itself.

Another trend in thinking is the trend towards park control, especially where a park department is a park and recreation board, giving equal emphasis to recreation as to the horticultural aspect of the park program. This trend of thinking is found particularly in small towns where it has worked well. However, in large cities we have had some pretty bad experiences. In some instances, during the depression, when park executives were put right "on the spot" they had to decide whether they considered horticulture or human use their primary function. In a good many instances, when cuts in the budget were considered, the cuts were made in the human use side and recreation has suffered. They thereby admitted that human use, or the recreation side of their responsibility, was secondary.

You are familiar with the trend in thinking towards control by the so-called recreation commission. I am more familiar with that because we are thinking somewhat in that way in New England. Where a city has four or five different departments, all either controlling recreational facilities or administering programs in recreation, none of which feels that recreation is its primary responsibility, and you get no coordination and no concerted effort on the part of these different departments, then it seems to me that the only salvation of cities of that kind is the recreation commission.

Now, I have not gone into any detail on the relative merits of administration by different types of agencies because you know those arguments as well as I do and I believe that the National Recreation Association has printed a bulletin, a very comprehensive bulletin, which covers all those arguments. But I should say in summary that in both trends in fact and trends in thinking, we find the school boards gradually taking an increasingly important part in the control of recreation.

In the discussion which followed Miss Sibyl Baker, Supervisor of Playgrounds, Washington, D. C., made the suggestion that it might be desirable to have information regarding the size of the communities reporting forms of administration. "Isn't it reasonable," she asked, "that in a small city the school board might be able to operate the recreation system, whereas in a large city it could not handle the entire recreation program? Do these statistics perhaps mean that an increasing

number of the smaller cities are developing recreation through their school boards?"

George D. Butler, Department of Research of the National Recreation Association, pointed out that the seeming increase in school administration reflects the opening up of a number of school centers or of school grounds in the summer time although the bulk of the funds for such service came from outside the community. Much more important, he felt, from the standpoint of administration trends than the number of communities reporting in the Year Book is the number of agencies which consider recreation important enough to justify the employment of at least one person on a full time basis. These figures show a very small change in this respect over a period of six years. There is very little to indicate that as far as the basic administration of recreation goes there has been any considerable shifting over from one form to another during the past six or more years.

#### How Do the Recreational Activities Offered the Teen Age Boy and Girl Meet the Needs of Present Day Youths?

RUTH SWEZEY, *Executive Director, Playground and Recreation Association of Wyoming Valley, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania*: The school is one of the agencies that takes care of the teen age. The extra-curricular topics and subjects take care of at least a great number of them. But we find in the Recreation Department in Wilkes-Barre we have more trouble with the teen age in high school, and more youngsters coming before the Saturday morning court who are in school than with those who have gotten past that stage.

The church probably has somewhat the same experience. Last week I attended a church conference which reached probably one hundred and fifty different churches. Those young people admitted very freely that their great trouble was lack of leadership, and that they could operate a great deal better program with their young people if they could have trained leaders. Their other major problem was that their boys and young men were dropping out of their activities.

The character-building agencies probably do one of the best jobs with the teen age, but the great difficulty is that most of them are membership agencies and most of them are sectarian. For some reason or other there is a great number of young people that are not reached through the character-building division, so it throws the re-

sponsibility back again on the municipal department.

This spring, in asking questions to find out just what we could do with youth, the thing that impressed me was that they seemed to have no feeling of certainty about themselves. Most of them answered their questions, "I don't know." They had no very definite training and interest along the line of recreation. There were some three hundred young people in that group and they were mostly the lower type of trained youngster. I think we are not giving an adequate recreational program to the teen age of that stratum of people.

Most of you have doubtless read the report that the National Recreation Association made in 1934 of the ways in which individuals spend their leisure time. The Association tried to find out what young people were doing in their leisure time and they found out through this survey that three-fourths of them were doing passive things in their leisure time, such as reading the paper, listening to the radio and going to the movies. We made another survey of what young people would do if they could do what they wanted to do, and we found that swimming headed the list with tennis next, and other outdoor activities. The whole trend showed that young people, if they could do what they wanted to do, would do the active thing and the gregarious thing that at present the majority of them were not doing. I think there should be more camping out, more hiking and more swimming and more tennis for this age group. The development of the county park system is doing perhaps as much as any one thing toward giving the general group of young people an opportunity for these activities free. Of course, the municipal park is free, too, but they need to get out more than they do into the open and into natural surroundings, and until we can furnish that type of opportunity for all young people it does not seem to me that we have really accomplished what we are trying to do.

Following Miss Swezey's talk, V. K. Brown cited Dr. Arthur E. Morgan of the TVA as saying that in his opinion the recreation movement is meaning for youth the addition of the cultural heritage which will counteract the poverty of youth's resources and of impulses to activity. Josephine D. Randall, Superintendent of Recreation, San Francisco, told of the reply of a gang of boys who had proved troublesome to the ques-

tion, "If you had a playground in this neighborhood what would you like to have?" "First a swimming pool," the boys said, "and then a place where we can make things."

Cecil Martin, Superintendent of Recreation, Pasadena, California, described how his city had attacked the problem through cooperative effort. All of the vice-principals in the schools in charge of extra-curricular activities, all of the executives of the character building agencies, the coordinating directors of physical education and recreation for the city, a representative of the Police Department and the deputy superintendent in charge of curricula in the schools worked together until facilities, which in Mr. Martin's opinion are about 95 per cent adequate, were provided. The city sends out a "floating supervisor" to meet the gangs where they are and bring them into the program.

The chairman, summing up the discussion, said he believes the necessary enrichment program for youth is just beginning and undoubtedly as our concept grows there will be additional supplementation in the form of workshops for arts and crafts and of athletic fields, play areas and camps.

#### Wage Scales for Employees of Recreation Departments

R. W. CAMMACK, *Superintendent of Recreation, Mount Vernon, New York*: Last summer, the Mayor appointed a special committee to study salaries and salary adjustments of various municipal departments. We were asked to make a study and submit a report on the salaries paid to our various employees. We did this and presented a thirteen-page report in which we listed the positions, the incumbents, the years employed, the pay in 1936, the pay listed in 1929, the salaries recommended for 1937, the yearly increase and the range of salaries that was recommended by the commission. Then we gave a whole page to a complete detail of the training experience and duties and assignments of each of our full-time workers. I will admit that I was surprised to find how much work and how many duties during the course of the year we were putting on the shoulders of our athletic supervisors, our women's supervisors, boys' director and all of our full-time workers. It opened the eyes of the committee studying the salary adjustment situation in the city and I believe it will prove to be helpful.

You may be interested in the part-time salaries of the workers. Our summer playground direct-



ors, for instance, begin with \$18 a week for 36½ hours a week. They range from \$18 up to \$25 a week, which makes their rate of pay vary from 50 cents an hour up to 68 cents an hour. Our fall playground directors are paid from 50 to 60 cents an hour. Our evening center directors are paid \$2 per evening. In some places where they are required to have technical training, they are paid \$2.50 an evening. That is at the rate of 80 to 83 cents an hour. Our referees in the industrial and senior basketball leagues get \$3 for two games in an evening. Referees in the junior league get \$2 for refereeing two games in an evening. The scorers in all leagues get \$1.50 for an evening's work. The supervisors in charge of the crowds receive \$2 per evening; locker room attendants, \$1.50 per evening.

As for our baseball officials, the umpires in the senior league get \$2 per game; in the industrial league, \$1.50; in the soft ball league, \$1.50; for junior and midget games, \$1.00 per game. Scorers get \$1.50 for two games. The scorers' supervisor in the senior league gets \$1.00 for one game. The laborers that are at the athletic fields are given about 50 cents an hour.

Another question you may wish to discuss is the comparison of our rate of pay for our civil service workers with the rate of pay paid by the relief workers. It is a problem that we all have to consider, to see that our own civil service workers who are trained and who have passed examinations are not paid too much less than the untrained relief workers who come to us to do the same sort of work.

There is another question that was discussed at considerable length among the Westchester County executives, and that was the scale of pay paid to those who are athletic directors or playground directors, in comparison to the pay allowed vocational workers, those who are trained to teach arts and crafts and drama and other specialized departments of our work. The latter were getting a higher rate of pay than the former and we did not see how a good coach should not be paid as much as a good art teacher.

We feel that it is worthwhile to submit and make public a detailed report of training experience and duties of all playground and recreation employees. It would be advisable to make a careful adjustment between WPA salaries and civil service salaries. Until the salaries are adequate, the best will not be attracted to the recreation profession.

In the discussion of this subject it was pointed out that directors in charge of the social centers conducted by the New York Board of Education are paid \$4.50 in the less difficult problem centers and as much as \$6.00 in the centers where greater executive abilities are called for. Teachers are paid \$3.75 a night and they work from two to four nights a week.

The discrepancy between the salaries paid playground directors and laborers was discussed. On the playgrounds maintained by the Park Department of New York City the salary schedule recently announced would give an average of about \$3.85 a day to year-round civil service play directors. A part-time director or temporary director would receive \$4.50 a day, while a playground maintenance worker or laborer would receive \$5.50 a day. It is becoming increasingly urgent that a scale of salaries be arrived at which will attract and hold good workers.

Pittsburgh, it was reported, has taken steps to solve the problem. Recently when the rate of pay was raised in the mills of Pittsburgh, the question arose among city officials as to whether it would be possible to secure the number of laborers necessary for work in the various departments. To meet the situation the pay of laborers was raised in the park department, the recreation department and other departments of public works to the level of that which the workers were receiving in the mills. At the same time the workers in the Bureau of Recreation whose salaries had been cut during the years of depression and those receiving less than \$1,650 a year were raised 10 per cent; those paid over this amount received a 6⅔ per cent increase.

#### **Are Local City Governments Increasing Funds for Recreation? How Have Increases Been Brought About?**

C. E. BREWER, *Commissioner of Recreation, Detroit, Michigan*: The records show that in 1921, 323 municipal departments and 193 private organizations financed recreation programs. In 1935, 809 municipal departments and 182 private agencies were supporting recreation. The number of cities that were supporting year-round recreation programs through public funds in 1930 was 239. Sixty-five communities supported recreation through private agencies. But in 1935 we find that the number of cities had increased to 252, while the private agencies decreased to 58. Hence, the figures evidently indicate that even during the de-



pression years the number of cities financing a recreation program has increased while those of private agencies has decreased.

In Detroit, in the last three years, we have doubled our appropriation for recreation purposes. We were decreased, during the depression, from \$850,000 to \$265,000 over night. But we have gone back up. This year we will have an appropriation of \$568,000. The induction salary of our recreation instructors has been raised from \$1,560 to \$1,860 a year, which is higher than the induction salary of the public schools, going up to senior instructors at \$2,340, community house supervisors \$2,280 to \$2,640, the assistant directors of recreation \$2,640 to \$3,000; the director of recreation \$3,200 to \$3,740. The supervisor of competitive athletics receives \$3,000 to \$3,540 per year. Steps of \$120 are granted each year from the minimum to the maximum for salaries under \$3,000 and \$180 per year for salaries over \$3,000.

We work only five days a week and the Council gave us a raise in salary, so, we are getting more money than we did before the depression and doing less work. However, the Council concluded that it had done as much as it could and did not give a 16½ per cent increase in workers to take up this one day off a week, so it makes it quite a problem to run the department on seven days a week with a five-day week staff.

In securing public funds for support I think a good many of us make the mistake of selling it on one feature, a special part of the program. We should sell the program on the general, all-round basis that we are doing an all-round full program of activities for adults as well as for children. Too many of us, I think leave the adult out of the program. You are not going to get all the support that you should get unless you do include the adult in your system of recreation. The money comes from the taxpayers, from the pockets of the adult. Therefore, if you make the adult feel that he is getting something out of the money that he is contributing to recreation purposes, when the tax bills come around he is not going to grumble at the amount of money which is being spent for recreation purposes.

You must build your budget on a businesslike, efficient basis. You have almost to be able to tell to the penny how you intend to spend the money, if you get it, and then be able to convince your appropriating bodies that the money is going to be spent wisely.

Whenever we have a particular problem that must be brought up, we always go back to the community that is going to be benefited and let them solve it. If you want a community building of three or four hundred thousand dollars in a community, if you can get twenty-five or thirty organizations to send in letters or appear down at a public hearing and talk on one item, you will be surprised to see how much effect it does have upon those people in the Council who do have the final say upon your budget.

Naturally, of course, with the increased leisure, the demands upon recreation departments will increase. So it behooves all of us recreation executives to pay particular attention to the methods whereby we can increase our budgets, and the only way that I know of to enlarging our budgets and getting increases each year, is to sell our program to all of the people in a community, and to make all them a part of our program.

#### Do Recent Increases in Facilities Make Imperative in Most Cities Increases in Appropriations?

J. M. RICHARDS, *Commissioner of Recreation, Cleveland, Ohio*: Investigation has proven that in the cities adjoining Cleveland the question should be answered in the affirmative. It *does* increase the appropriation and makes it absolutely necessary. Even though you may merely go into a vacant lot to establish that as a play area, it increases your cost of operation. You must place at least a baseball backstop there. It calls for additional supplies and equipment.

To purchase property, it is necessary to increase the budget, but we found that where we had the property, it was still quite necessary to have an increase in our budget to improve these facilities, to expand our program on areas which the city had formerly operated as play areas, but had not felt it was justified in extending funds for its improvement.

The problem of maintenance makes it imperative that additional funds be allocated. The problem of personnel, regardless of the fact that we are able to get personnel from the WPA and the NYA, requires additional expense. The WPA and the NYA are merely supplementing the personnel the city cannot afford to carry at this time.

You have the additional expense and cost of all supplies, whether they are handicraft supplies or of another nature. Equipment is an additional expense.

One of the major problems is the cost of transportation. Supervisors find it very expensive to drive their cars, and in order to increase the number of physical facilities you have to increase the budgets for any supervisor's transportation.

The program of expansion must necessarily cost more money. With the assistance of the NYA and the WPA, the amount of the appropriation necessary is reduced, but it is necessary that more funds be allocated to carry on a program. The only answer to this question is that it costs you more money no matter where you are or how you increase the facilities.

### Budget Making

WALTER ROY, *Recreation Division of the Chicago Park District*: It is a very difficult thing to arrive at formula and try to work out percentages. I thought, therefore, I might give you an analysis of our budget, rather than the percentages we try to adhere to.

First, with all of our departments we have a full municipal system and there we do try to observe a percentage figure for fear our budget may become too heavy on the material side. Our supplies, other than salaries, should not exceed 17 per cent. That is true of all our departments, including our legal department, our police department and many items you may not have in your particular system.

Our recreation division takes in our buildings, our field house buildings or recreation buildings, our golf courses and our beaches, but does not include such matters as the repairing of these buildings and policing, which are in other divisions. On this we have no set figure that we strive toward, but we find that salaries have taken at least 92 per cent in the recreation division, leaving 8 per cent for what we call "miscellaneous items." Our supplies within this 100 per cent recreation budget would run about 5 per cent. We have been spending for the last three years in the neighborhood of 2 per cent for repairs to our apparatus. That includes the manufacture of new apparatus. This would be modified, once again, by the use of WPA labor which would throw us closer, I think, to a 4 per cent figure if we took that into account for our annual percentage.

Maintenance of ball fields, tennis courts and so on does not come in our division. That is handled by our landscape maintenance division which also takes care of the shrubbery, cutting of grass and other things. In computing the salaries of the rec-

reation division, the item runs just about 50 per cent for supervisory and teaching classifications and about 50 per cent for the maintenance type of salaries.

We have no formula; we have arrived at no particular percentages. We study each particular situation in our work sheets, figuring the minimum requirements of each location. A recapitulation of all those individual locations is worked in for salaries and supplies, and recognition is given the fact that we want to hold down expenditures for supplies and give more in the way of personal service. That has resulted in the figures of 92 per cent for salaries and about 8 per cent for miscellaneous items.

Continuing the discussion of finances, George Hjelte, Superintendent of Recreation in Los Angeles, emphasized the point made by Mr. Brewer that in order to secure additional appropriations for recreation it is important to interest adults in the program. It is necessary, too, to inform adults, who are the voting citizens, of the problems recreation officials are facing so that they will be intelligent on the subject of the provision of recreational services. As an example of the way in which the public will support a program for additional appropriations for recreation if they are given an opportunity to express themselves, Mr. Hjelte told of the referendum vote held last April in Los Angeles which resulted in an increase of \$250,000 in the budget for recreation. Through this vote the four cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation allotted by the city charter was increased to six cents, making the total budget from tax funds and fees a little over \$900,000 in the coming fiscal year.

In the campaign which preceded the vote the Parent-Teacher Associations and Women's Clubs, with whom contacts were made at the beginning of the project, and the employed staff of the Recreation Department bore the brunt of the burden. When the request to have the referendum was brought before the City Council—and this was done at a strategic time when every councilman was running for re-election—enthusiastic approval was given. Out of the thirty amendments before the City Council, the amendment authorizing the vote was the only one which received a unanimous vote. To meet the expenses of the campaign, \$2,000 was raised in \$1.00 contributions from societies and organizations of various kinds.

It was found that in the districts where the playground and recreation departments had been giving service for over a year, the measure received majority votes of 6 to 1, 7 to 1 and even 9 to 1 in some places. The districts which had never had service gave a better majority of votes, showing that the people who had had an opportunity to take part in recreation were for it, even though they knew that most of the money would not be spent in their particular districts but in the sections not previously served by the commission.

In Decatur, Illinois, before a demonstration of recreation had been put on with federal funds the citizens voted down a proposal to spend money for recreation by more than 5 votes to 1 in every precinct in the city. Eighteen months later, when the citizens had seen what a recreation program really was, every precinct voted three to one in favor of the proposal. Over five hundred block workers were used in the campaign and on the day of the election every effort was made to get the voters out.

The question was raised as to whether support has been secured from organizations such as large industries because of services to the industrial field, and whether such services affect the attitude of large industries toward municipal recreation needs. Mr. Brewer stated that in Detroit the Recreation Commission provides most of the facilities and activities for industrial plants such as school gymnasium, baseball diamonds, swimming pools and tennis courts. In a number of cases some of the plants have done away with athletic fields and the men are enjoying the municipal provision for recreation in their own communities. Whenever problems of increased appropriations arise the commission receives large support from these industrial groups.

V. K. Brown of Chicago told of a hearing at the time the Park District tax levy was being considered by the legislature at which the President of the Federation of Labor appeared and emphatically endorsed the Park District's request for funds, not only on behalf of the boys and girls of the city, but also on behalf of organized labor, couching his endorsement in terms of the meaning of a richer life for the working man and working woman as well as for children. To provide for the large industrial clientele, the Park District is using its plants at night, keeping the centers open until 11 o'clock.

In Los Angeles the Chamber of Commerce was happy to give its endorsement to the campaign,

after a great deal of study, in spite of the fact that it is constitutionally opposed to tax increases and will not give an endorsement except for measures of the utmost importance.

Last year the recreation budget of Elizabeth, New Jersey, an industrial community, was increased by 25 per cent. Mayor Brophy stated that the Recreation Commission has built up a great deal of good will of industrial leaders who are large taxpayers, and they are in favor of the municipal recreation program. He believes that it is possible to secure the good will and support of industrialists if the right contacts are made.

#### Tabulation of Reports — Financial, Program and Administrative

F. S. MATHEWSON, *Superintendent of Recreation, Union County, New Jersey*: We have this question for our consideration: "For the purpose of uniform tabulation of all reports, namely, financial, program and administrative, would it be possible for the National Recreation Association to offer a uniform report blank to be used by all cities cooperating with the National Recreation Association?"

It seems to me that no real solution to this problem can be secured until there is more uniformity in general municipal accounting. I have discussed this question with three or four different people who have been doing some thinking on the subject and that was the answer in each case. Huus, in his book on finance and municipal recreation, states that it is absolutely impossible to compare financial costs because of lack of uniformity, and, in most cases, of any kind of system at all.

I suppose one of the first steps that should be taken would be a discussion of terms. For instance, what do we mean by operation? What do we mean by maintenance?

I remember, a few years ago, listening to a person talk to a conference about his golf course. He told us of the profits which were accruing as a result of his particular golf course. Yet, when we were able to analyze his figures, it was found that he was not considering costs of maintenance but only charging off against the gross income, the operation. The cost of maintenance was met by the Park Board. Again, in comparing cost of golf courses, we have to consider whether this golf course is operating with a large club house, or with only a booth where the registrations are made.



There is need for the inauguration of a better cost accounting system. No comparative cost for maintenance can be secured without a distribution of time. Many recreation departments, and even park departments, operate today without distributing the time of the maintenance department. We have found that to compare costs of maintenance in one park with another in our own system, it is necessary to reduce the acreage first. A park has so many acres of shrubbery, so many acres of lawn area, so many miles of roads, so many acres of heavily-used play areas. Unless we did that we could not make comparisons with one of our other parks relative to the efficiency of the various foremen.

Every time a carpenter goes out to a playground, or the grass is cut or the maintenance work done on a particular baseball field, that cost is charged directly to the recreation department and so it is borne by our budget. In this way at the end of the year it is ascertained that the cost of activities in the system is exactly so much.

We use about 125 different forms in our recreation department alone. These were made, in many cases, after careful study of forms used by other departments. They satisfy our cost demands and our auditors, but it is safe to say that they are of little value when compared with those which other cities are making.

I have often thought that the year book report should be of greater help to us in making comparisons if the tabulations were presented in a little different way. I think that cities under recreation commissions should be tabulated in one way. Cities under park boards should be tabulated in another table. Cities under boards of education, county parks, should have still another tabulation. I know that the National Recreation Association has given considerable thought and study to this particular question and there are many reasons why this could not be done in the present set-up, but it seems to me that it would be most helpful to us if it were possible to work out a plan by which it could be accomplished.

It is absolutely necessary to tell the city council or the board of freeholders, as the case may be, just exactly how the money was spent last year and how it is intended to spend it for the coming year, if we are going to secure the necessary funds with which to do our job.

There is an attempt being made by the Children's Bureau at Washington to secure uniform record-keeping methods by both private and pub-

lic agencies and so there is a keen interest on the part of the various private and public officials to have a better understanding of this whole question.

At this point I want to present a motion that the National Recreation Association be urged to form a committee similar to the Standards Committee and other committees organized in past years, to make a study of this question and to make a complete report, at least, a progress report, at the Twenty-third Annual Recreation Conference.

This motion was passed.

#### How Can We Get Attendance Figures Which Tell the Truth?

IRENE WELTY, *Superintendent of Recreation, Allentown, Pennsylvania*: If I could answer that question, I think I would be greeted with a round of applause, but in some of our activities it is quite easy to get figures which do tell the truth. For instance, in the use of your golf courses you probably charge a small fee or you have your people register. This is also true in tennis and a few more activities, probably in your community centers in the winter time. These figures which you have from the National Recreation Association on your report sheet are probably quite correct and true, but I know all of us wonder when we send our report in, just what they are going to do about it and how they are going to make up the report when they get them. If we should take our registration and multiplied it by the number of clear days that our playgrounds were open, and if the National Association would arrive at a percentage of attendance which would be the most uniform and multiply by it, we would probably have a better viewpoint of attendance.

Another question here says, "Why should not greater stress be placed on statistics which relate to participation and less on statistics which only concern themselves with non-participation?"

The only suggestion I can give you is this: if you are estimating a crowd of people, at least find out how many your stadium or auditorium or your opera house holds so that you don't overestimate the number!

There is another question, "How valuable are our recreational attendance statistics when the key to the measuring medium is local and not uniform throughout the various cities?" I feel it does have a value to the local community and our politicians are very anxious, our councilmen and our Mayor,



to have statistics because they feel the recreation department is reaching a greater number of people than they think it does. It will mean a great deal to them, and a great deal to us in our budget, but as far as having any value to the national outlook of participation I am afraid that it is very small.

In the discussion which followed, methods of cost accounting aroused much interest. The point was made that there was probably little possibility of developing uniformity in cost accounting systems because of the necessity for complying with municipal budget set-ups which vary considerably. Municipal housekeeping in general is safeguarded by legislation in every state, and as long as states are sovereign, uniformity is impossible. The committee which the recreation executive has asked to have appointed might perhaps harvest from various sources samplings which will show typical situations and this will be helpful. While little can be done, in all probability, in compiling uniform methods of cost accounting, there is much more hope for success in attempting to standardize program accounting which will make it possible not only to compare one city with another in its recreational services, but also a section of one city with another section, and one center with another.

#### At the Luncheon Meeting

Following the morning session a special luncheon meeting was held for the discussion of questions relating to WPA and the National Youth Administration. At this meeting recreation executives were given the opportunity to discuss with Aubrey Williams, Director of the NYA and Assistant Administrator WPA, questions regarding relationships with federal government agencies operating in the leisure time field. Dr. E. C. Lindeman, Director, Community Organization for Leisure WPA, also answered questions and told of some of the things which are being done through governmental agencies.

A report of this session will be published separately.

#### Association of Recreation Executives

On May 27, 1936 the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association voted in

Following the luncheon, the afternoon session of the meeting of recreation executives was devoted to a discussion of the organization of an association of recreation workers. The minutes of this meeting, together with a brief statement regarding the preliminary steps taken, are presented here.

favor of an organization of recreation workers. Out of 173 recreation executives writing in response to a questionnaire, 168 expressed themselves as in favor of organization. Recreation executives throughout the country by a mail ballot chose a committee of ten to advise as to preliminary arrangements for forming the organization. This committee asked V. K. Brown to call the first organization meeting to order. V. K. Brown was duly elected temporary chairman and Arthur T. Noren, temporary secretary. The temporary chairman was authorized to appoint a committee of fifteen to consider the plans proposed at the first organization meeting held on May 17, 1937 and to present a plan for consideration at the second meeting to be held on May 20th.

At the meeting on May 17th several questioned the need of a new organization. Others urged that the new organization be a part of the National Recreation Association. Howard Braucher, secretary of the National Recreation Association, was called upon by the chairman and stated with conviction that he felt the time had come for the organization of an association of recreation workers and that the new society ought to be entirely separate and distinct from the National Recreation Association so that there could be the utmost freedom in the expression of opinion, while at the same time the National Recreation Association and the new professional organization ought naturally to work in very close cooperation.

The minutes of the meeting held on May 20th follow:

At the National Recreation Congress held in Atlantic City, steps were taken to perfect an organization of recreation workers to be known as "The Association of Recreation Workers." The following general purposes were proposed:

- A. 1. That the name of the association be: "The Association of Recreation Workers."
2. That the purposes of the association be as follows:
  - a. To unite in one organization all recreation workers in the United States and adjoining countries.
  - b. To foster and to maintain high standards of professional qualifications.
  - c. To foster and to maintain high standards of professional ethics.

- d. To encourage and promote adequate programs of professional training for recreational workers.
- e. To affiliate for mutual benefit with the National Recreation Association and to join with other agencies organized for similar or related objectives.
- f. To publish a bulletin or other medium for dissemination of information concerning its activities and related matters.
- g. To act as an agency for representing recreation workers when group representation is desired.
- h. To promote adequate compensation for recreation workers.
- i. To protect the interests of recreation workers as a group in situations where their professional interests are involved.
- j. To encourage research on matters of professional interest.

#### B. Active Membership

Membership in this association shall be open to anyone who is employed as a professional recreation worker on a year-round, full time basis in any private or public agency which is primarily concerned with and interested in the promotion of public recreation. Dues, three dollars per year including a subscription to the Recreation magazine.

#### Associate Membership

This association shall be open to any recreation worker who is employed on a part time or seasonal basis or anyone who is interested in any way in the field of public recreation. Dues—two dollars and a half per year including a subscription to the Recreation magazine.

Voting power in this Association shall be limited to active members.

- c. That an annual convention for the proposed organization be held once a year at the same time and the same place as that of the National Recreation Association and that members be notified of the place and dates of this meeting.
- d. That this convention be held during an afternoon session as determined by the Executive Committee.
- e. That the proposed new group contact the National Recreation Association requesting that they suggest a temporary secretary from their staff to serve in the membership drive and the supervision of the bulletins.

- f. That the National Recreation Association be requested to assign a certain section in their official magazine, RECREATION, these pages to be devoted to the business of the proposed recreation workers' organization.
- g. That the relationship of the proposed new group to other organizations interested either directly or indirectly in leisure-time activities be referred to a sub-committee for an intensive study; said duty to include a referendum on the sentiment of all members of the group.

The above report was presented before about three hundred delegates.

After considerable discussion, the motion was made by George Hjelte, seconded by Tam Deering, that the recreation workers proceed to organize on the general plan as submitted by the above report.

A communication was read by Dr. John Brown, Jr., suggesting a possible affiliation with the American Physical Education Association. After some discussion, this matter was referred to the general committee for further study.

The motion was made and unanimously passed that the officers of this committee be delegated with responsibility to continue in office until final organization is effected.

Motion was made that information on the entire proposal be disseminated through the regular bulletin service.

The following motion was made by Fay S. Mathewson, seconded by Robert Dixon: that the committee of fifteen already appointed be empowered to carry on for another year with instructions to study the whole plan and to submit a complete report at the 1938 Congress with the proposed constitution and by-laws and any other recommendations which seem desirable as a result of its study.

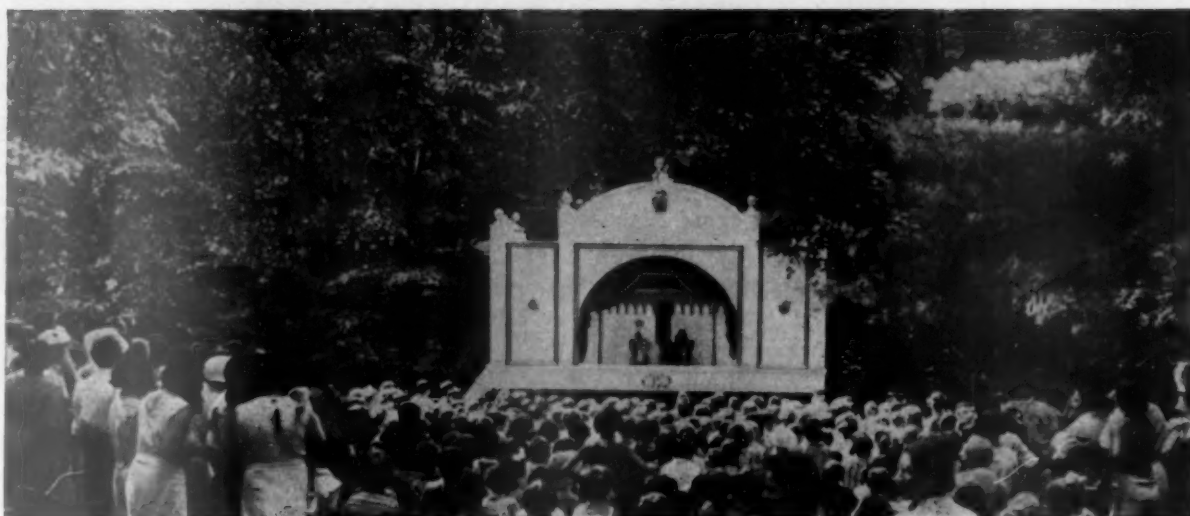
Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR T. NOREN, *Secretary*.

The following recreation executives, representing a cross section of the country, were selected as a steering committee for planning the organization of the Association of Recreation Workers:

W. Duncan Russell, Boston, Mass.  
 George Hjelte, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Josephine Blackstock, Oak Park, Ill.  
 V. K. Brown, Chicago, Ill.  
 Charles English, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 W. C. Cammack, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.  
 Catherine Kreig, Des Moines, Iowa

(Continued on page 259)



## Marionettes on Wheels

By JOHN M. HURLEY  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Hartford, Connecticut

it is an enterprise calling for the utmost ingenuity.

### From Ancient Egypt to Modern Junk Yards

**T**HE ART OF PUPPETRY is by no means new, but it would be an inaccurate statement to say there is nothing new in the art of puppetry. It was known in the year 1400 B. C. and even earlier, some historians declare, but the modern version adapted for educational recreation has become the newest and one of the most important developments in the recreation field, and one that has met with remarkable success, particularly with the introduction of the traveling theater.

These mobile units, many of them unique because of the ingenuity which has gone into their creation, have opened new vistas and brought into being new opportunities that are taking puppetry far from the beaten paths of parks and playgrounds. By reaching areas hitherto untouched, they are taking municipal recreation to the people where it is most readily accessible to them, making it unnecessary for the audience to go to a stated place involving travel and long distances.

For the fortunate recreation department endowed with sufficient funds to carry on an adequate program it is not much of a task to establish a traveling theater, but for the less fortunate department

Lacking funds for a traveling theater and called upon to use its resourcefulness to the limit, the WPA-Recreation Division of the Hartford Park Department has been successful in securing a theater on wheels though it has meant traversing a devious path that led all the way from the archives of ancient Egypt to an automobile junk yard, secondhand shops and a dismantled theater. The traveling theater is now starting on its second outdoor season with a record behind it of an average of three performances a week in parks, playgrounds and neighborhood centers, as well as a tour, on request, of the county fairs throughout the state.

The Recreation Division of the Hartford Park Department has developed rare resourcefulness in converting old material into equipment combining beauty and utility. Proof of this was given in an article which appeared in the April 1936 issue of RECREATION. The Division has once more proven its ingenuity and skill by creating a marionette theater out of discarded material. James H. Dillon, Supervisor of Recreation, tells us the idea was suggested to him by an article he saw in RECREATION telling of a traveling puppet theater in a Pacific coast city. Mr. Dillon called into consultation his director of marionettes, Alwin Nikolais, and the project was speedily launched.

The theater's repertoire of six plays has been increased by two for this summer's production. The new shows are "Rip Van Winkle" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which will be presented in addition to "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp," "St. George and the Dragon," "Hansel and Gretel," "Jack and the Bean-



stalk," "The Flying Trunk" and "The Amateur Hour."

Starting from scratch in the spring of 1935 under the sponsorship of J. H. Dillon, Supervisor of Recreation, with practically nothing at its disposal except the experience and knowledge of its marionette troupe, the project has achieved high success.

The first step in securing the theater was a trip to an automobile junk yard where an old but serviceable Ford truck chassis was obtained for the payment of the princely sum of \$15. It was a sorry looking object, but its decrepit body concealed a good motor which, with four young, sturdy wheels, provided the mobile equipment; that is, it *was* mobile after four used tires had been purchased! When it had been stripped to the bare essentials, the departmental carpenters went to work to build on it a platform of planks which was to form the foundation for the theater superstructure.

Next, stage hands from the marionette and dramatic groups took it in charge. Scarcely had they started work when it became known that Parson's Theater, one of the oldest and most famous in the country and a Hartford landmark for years, was to be dismantled and razed. Through the courtesy of the owners, the WPA-Recreation Division had the rare good fortune to secure permission to remove whatever equipment and theatrical effects it desired. In this way footlights, border lights, two flood lights, five spotlights and color reels were secured, as well as a quantity of stage scenery, drops, wings and other paraphernalia.

From the day Parson's Theater opened over a century ago, a grotesque carved insignia of the drama has gazed out over the audience from its place above the front arch of the stage. Today that same wooden image looks out over the audience watching a performance of the traveling theater stage.

The acquisition of this equipment added impetus to the construction of the mobile unit. A scenic artist repainted some of the Parson's Theater scenery and painted new scenery on old canvas. Stage hands made over drops and wings to fit new measurements. Electricians built a spe-

cial switchboard and troughs for the border and footlights for illumination—a highly important factor as lighting effects are used to carry out the story. The switchboard controls the amplifying system as well as all lights, including the large spotlights with 1,000 watt bulbs, baby spots of 500 watts each and a border of multicolored lights that encircle the stage.

### Authenticity and Artistry Join Hands

While the work on the vehicle itself was under way, Mr. Nikolais with the aid of Edward J. Dunn an expert wood carver attached to the department, and his troupe of operators were busy with the manufacture of the puppets, every one of which is handmade. Each head, face and torso was carved by Mr. Dunn, an artisan who years ago carved the famous staircase in the Saratoga,

New York, Casino, while Mr. Nikolais personally handled the moulding of the features and the stringing of the limbs. Costumes for the characters were produced by the Department's dressmakers. This work alone is worthy of attention for every costume represents hours of research by one of the troupe's members especially assigned to this task. The marionette costume must conform in

"Marionettes are as old as civilization itself. They have been found buried in the tombs of the kings and queens of that most ancient of civilizations—Egypt. In Greece, we find that Archimedes, the greatest inventor of his time, devised many clever ways of making them move and appear human."

—From *The Hobbyist*.

every detail to the original mode, color and design.

It has been estimated that each puppet represents a cost of about \$30, so intricate and delicate is the workmanship, but its value when completed is about \$100. The making of the puppets was the most expensive part of the new traveling unit.

When the technicians and the artisans ended their labor, the bridge was erected, the vehicle was painted a glowing white with a trim of gold and a trailer attachment was forged in the Park Department's blacksmith's shop.

### Off on the Road!

It was then hooked up to a departmental truck and took to the road, conducting a circuit in two months of every park, playground and neighborhood gathering place that provided accommodations for a public gathering.

From the start it was an outstanding success—an investment of about \$300 that has an "as is"

value of \$1,000, but whose value to children cannot be computed in dollars and cents. They flock to it like bees to honey, following it from place to place, eager and rapt in their attention and tireless in watching over and over again the antics of the tiny creatures dangling at the end of strings.

At the close of the summer, but before the end of the outdoor season, the theater's popularity had spread past the boundaries of Hartford and reached the ears of Robert A. Hurley, then administrator of the Connecticut WPA. At Mr. Hurley's request, the traveling theater with its Hartford troupe started on a state tour that took it to practically every county fair where thousands, many of them for the first time, were entertained with marionette shows.

During the winter, the theater was kept in storage while the troupe continued its usual indoor program in school auditoriums, community centers and public gathering places. With the advent of the summer season it was brought out, reconstructed and repainted and is now ready for the road again.

Mr. Nikolais has made a life time study of the art of puppetry and is exceptionally well informed, not only on the historical background but on the technical details of manufacture and operation.

#### An Ancient Art

"It was only recently," he recalls, "that I was both surprised and shocked at the remarks of a supposedly intelligent woman. We had just rung down the last curtain on our third performance of the day when she rushed backstage. 'Why, you clever, clever people,' she gushed. 'How in the world did you ever think up

the marvelous idea of dangling little dollies about on strings?' The entire company gulped for there is nothing they detest more than to have the little actors called 'dollies,' and I'm sure the characters' hearts would be broken if they realized how few people know of their ancient, honorable and astounding ancestry."

Mr. Nikolais can trace their ancestry back even before puppets were known on an Egyptian oasis in 1400 B. C. That 1400 B. C. puppet was supposed to be the reincarnation of the god Ammon Ra, while actually it was a man-sized marionette built in such a way that a priest could get inside and manipulate the arms, legs, head, mouth and eyes.

"We are not sure this puppet of Ammon Ra was the first," according to Mr. Nikolais, "and it is safe to guess it was not. The people of India before that were very fond of puppets and many wonderful stories have been passed on to us about them. There is one story about Parvati, wife of the god Siva, who made such a beautiful puppet she was afraid to show it to her husband and secreted it in the Malaya Mountains. Suspicious of his wife, Siva followed her, discovered the puppet, fell madly in love with it, and used his supernatural powers to give it life. It must have

*(Continued on page 260)*

A "close-up" of the traveling theater shows some of the details of construction and the quality of workmanship which has gone into its creation



# "Calendar Highlights"

By MARK L. FRENCH

Department of Parks, Playgrounds and Public Buildings  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**A**N UNUSUALLY attractive pageant has been arranged for presentation in

St. Paul, and a beautiful site has been selected for the production which will include participating groups from all of the playgrounds in the city, it was announced by Ernest W. Johnson, Superintendent of Playgrounds.

"Calendar Highlights," a picturesque spectacle depicting events which are celebrated annually on the St. Paul play centers, will be offered in tableau settings on Sunday, July 25th, at 8:30 P. M. From eighteen to twenty such events are planned, according to Miss Gwetholyn Beedon, dramatic director for the Department, who will be in charge. Cooperating with the Playground Department in making the city-wide affair possible are the Ramsey County WPA Recreation Project and the WPA Music Project.

The site chosen is located on beautiful Lake Phalen where natural glacier formations aided by man-made landscaping provide a small island. The island is surrounded by gently sloping hills which offer a natural amphitheater where spectators may sit. Although the sides of the hill are not terraced, they have well seeded lawns, which, fanned by the cool refreshing breezes off the lake, will provide comfort for the audience.

An advantage of this site best appreciated by the directors of the pageant is the fact that the only entrance is over a small bridge. This gateway will be guarded so that only persons connected with the performance can gain admittance, thus assuring no interference from outside sources. It will make it possible to control the natural desire of the children to roam about the park when they are not on the stage; a guard will be stationed at the bridge who will see that only those children having written permission may leave.

A stage resembling a huge picture frame will be used. Brilliantly lighted, with its boxed encased framework, it will give the effect of a portrait frame. An innovation for a front curtain drop will be

used. Two huge pumps will draw water from the canal and will carry it to an impro-

vised trough at the top of the stage; from that point it will fall into another trough placed directly in front of the setting and drain back into the canal. While the water is falling numerous colored lights will be played on the spray from the front and rear giving a rainbow effect. This lighting device will be used only during the changing of stage property and while the placing of characters back stage is going on.

The stage itself will have a frontage of approximately 40 feet and will drop back to 15 feet in depth with a 20 foot rear background. It will be 15 feet in height.

An interesting device will be used to announce the names of the participating playgrounds and the events to be presented in the setting. An 18 foot papier-maché sign with blocked out letters arranged on pegs will be placed on a chassis, with four disc wheels somewhat resembling a wagon, which will be drawn across the stage by a small dog. In reality the dog will have very little work to do as an invisible wire manipulated by man power will draw the sign across the stage.

Among the scenes which have already been chosen and assigned to different playgrounds are New Year's, Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day, Washington's and Lincoln's Birthdays, April 1st, Easter, May Day, Mother's and Father's Days, Memorial Day, a June bridal, July 4th, Labor Day, Hallowe'en, Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations, and a harvesting scene significant of the month of August.

NOTE: We hope very much that the recreation departments which this summer conduct such pag-

eants as St. Paul plans to produce, will send us reports of the events as they are held. If sufficient material reaches us we shall be glad to incorporate the information in an article to appear in a later issue of RECREATION.

Many recreation departments are now planning for the circus, festival, pageant or other special event which will bring together all their playgrounds in a city-wide demonstration at the end of the summer season. St. Paul is planning for a pageant, "Calendar Highlights," which will be of interest to other cities.



# A Cruise Party

**L**ET'S SUPPOSE it happened this way, because it might very well have. . . . The PBX Club of older boys and girls was restless. Summer was coming on, everyone wanted to go to the beach or on one of the many advertised cruises, and no one could! To make matters worse they showed a travel movie in the Center and everybody said, "If I only had a million—or even a few hundred dollars, just wouldn't I get away from here!" Nobody felt any better about having to stay in the city after seeing the picture. Then Joe, head of the social committee, had an idea and called a special meeting of his committee and said, "Let's throw a ship party and take ourselves on a cruise." And this is what they worked out for the club—as a surprise.



ers at intervals on the wall. (Jane had printed "S. S. Good Time" on each one.) Two girls made sailor hats for the club members and officer caps for the social committee. (Joe was Captain.) Jim suggested they make a promenade deck and roped

off a walk about six feet wide down the whole side of the gym. He put deck chairs, camp stools and chairs along it for those who wanted to sit down. He pinned some life preservers to the heavy, cheap twine he had used to give the effect of a railing and tacked some port holes behind the chairs on the wall. Mary hung a red light to the left of the gangplank (port side), and a green one on the right (starboard). Out of a cardboard packing case they cut a huge anchor and chain to put in one corner. The effect was quite nautical and they were well pleased.

## Invitations

They sent out invitations in the form of cruise folders, having visited a travel bureau and obtained folders from which they cut pictures and captions. "If we can't use the Center mimeograph machine, we'll cut down on the print and use more pictures and print them by hand," said Joe. They used cheap, colored paper and included place and time and suggested everyone come in costume suitable for a tropical cruise. The ship was the S.S. Good Time; the destination the Seven Seas.

## Decorations

Planning the decorations for the club room was almost more fun than the party. They didn't have space or time to carry out all their ideas, but here are some of the things they did. They made a gangplank leading into the gym where the party was given; hung ropes about the room and pinned triangular flags of colored kindergarten paper along them, one almost touching the next, and thumb-tacked large cardboard life preserv-

## Games

"Now we've got to plan some good games," said Joe. "We could plan a game from each of the various countries we touch; we could run a progressive party with the regular ship games of bull board, deck tennis, shuffleboard and ring toss or we can parody things that happen on a ship." They decided to do the latter, and worked out the following activities. Joe, as Captain, was to lead the games and the other committee members were to assist him.

**Pre-party.** What to do with the early comers was the first problem. "We'll give them something to look at," suggested Jim. "How about a marine museum, along the wall here?" No sooner said than done. First comers were ushered up the gangplank by the officers and taken to the Marine Museum until "sailing time." They saw Davey Jones's locker (a small chest); the most famous sailor of modern times (funny paper cutout of

Poyeye, the Sailor Man); the most celebrated sailor in literature (drawing of Jonah and a

**If you can't go on that ocean cruise you'd like to take, at least you can enjoy a cruise party!**

whale or a bit of the "Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner"), the most famous nautical love affair (drawing of the owl and the pussy cat); King of the sea (picture of Neptune); a sea serpent (toy snake), and the equator (a hair fastened across the large end of a pair of opera glasses).

**Boat Drill.** When all were aboard, the Captain ordered a boat drill and led a grand march to the tune of *Sailing* and *Anchor's Aweigh*, using "starboard" for right and "port" for left as he gave his orders. Pretending that all the guests were crew, he halted them and inspected with his officers. Some who weren't in nautical attire or who had a tie crooked or a lock of hair out of place or smiled had their names taken for later sentence and were threatened with the brig if they didn't mend their ways.

**Nautical Relay.** Having ended the boat drill with the group in four rows, the Captain announced a nautical relay. Each person in turn raced to the other end of the room and back touching off the next player. The first had to walk with a sailor's roll; the second hopped on one leg as a one-legged sailor; the third and fourth went together, the fourth (a tug), pushing the third (a barge); the fifth blew his fog horn (cupped hands) all the way, and the sixth ran for his life belt. "If there are more than six in each row," Joe said, as they made up the list, "I'll add new ways or use any of the others again." The members of the winning team received a candy lifesaver as a prize.

**Square Knot Relay.** The Captain showed the group how to tie a square knot. (He had looked in a Boy Scout manual to find out.) The leader of each team was given a short length of clothesline rope and on the word "go" he tied a square knot which was passed on by an officer assigned to the team. He then untied it and passed the rope to the next player, and so on. The team finished first also received life saver prizes.

**Horse Racing.** A cruise wouldn't be complete without a horse race, so three girls and three boys were selected from the group to be horses. Twenty pieces of paper were laid out on the floor in a straight line, and the horses were numbered one to six and lined up at the start. One girl was selected to shake the dice. The rest of the group was divided into six groups depending on which horse each chose to back. The race was on. The girl shook out one dice. Six turned up. She shook

the other, five turned up. Horse number six went ahead five papers. She continued in this way until one horse crossed the finish line. Those backing the winning horse received a life saver. There was a great deal of cheering for each horse, needless to say, as the race progressed.

**Stunt.** One of the officers held a list of all the names of the club members. After the horse race he went quickly around the group to collect guesses on the number of miles the ship would travel that day—a take-off on the customary "guessing" of the length of the day's run. He held a glass jar of beans. Each guessed the number in the jar and had the number written after his name. The one coming closest received a doughnut prize.

**The Ocean Is Stormy.** The Captain then ordered each girl to take the man nearest her on the right as her partner. One of the officers gave each couple a sheet of paper which it was to put near the side of the room and stand on. Each couple thought of the name of a fish it was to be. The Captain walked around the room saying "I went fishing and I caught a . . . . .," naming some fish. Any couple having that name fell in behind him. Next time he called the name of another fish, and so on until he had quite a number of "fish" behind him. Suddenly he said "The Ocean is Stormy" and all, including the Captain, raced for a paper. One couple was left without a paper. The Captain took the girl of that couple for his partner and the extra man became the fisherman.

**Immigration Test.** "Now," said the Captain, "we are nearing port and the immigration officers will see which couples are educated enough to be allowed to go ashore." An officer gave a card and pencil to each couple and the immigration officer (one of the committee) read the following statements, the passengers writing down the answers. The answers were read and prizes awarded the highest and lowest scores.

1. Is a nautical mile longer or shorter than a land mile? (A nautical mile is 6,080.2 feet)
2. "Full fathoms five thy father lies"—How far down was he? (Thirty feet)
3. How many stripes on a captain's sleeve? (Four)
4. Which is the leeward side of a boat? (Side opposite to that against which the wind blows)
5. Is starboard right or left? (Right)
6. Is the stern the front of the boat? (No)

(Continued on page 261)



Truly professional in its layout is the annual playground circus of Evansville, Indiana

## "We Have a Circus"

By LOTYS BENNING

"WE HAVE A CIRCUS," any child in Evansville, Indiana, will tell you if you ask what happens on the playgrounds there.

And indeed they do, both literally and figuratively. For the past two years the summer season has closed with a three-ring performance which rivals professional shows.

At the beginning of the season the thousand youngsters attending the twelve playgrounds start getting their acts ready for the big day. Playground supervisors begin early visiting playgrounds to spot outstanding talent which may be used in special acts. Clubs having unusual acts are also invited to join in the circus. Training for the clown acts in particular is started early, as these are the most difficult acts to perform well.

Held in a large athletic field, the circus features two forty foot rings and three platforms, making it possible for from two to five acts to be presented at one time. There are tumblers, trained animal acts, marionette and puppet shows, dancers, trapeze artists, acrobats, tap dancers and contortionists. Former circus performers now living in Evansville coach the children and appear on the program.

Last year's performance, which played to an audience of ten thousand, lasted two hours. General admission was free, but there was a charge of ten cents for eight hundred reserved seats.

Four bands and a calliope provided continuous music. There were two hillbilly bands, a clown band and a junior band. The calliope belongs to an Evansville citizen. He had bought an old one for seven dollars many years ago and had never put it in condition. After seeing the first playground circus, he turned it over to recreation workers who made it play again.

In last year's show one hundred clowns went through their antics, and trick bicycle riders trained on the playgrounds rode everything from old-fashioned high-wheelers to modern balloon-tired models.

Five of the playgrounds had tumbling teams of eight members each, who appeared in costumes carrying out their playground colors. Dancers in colorful costumes did group and square dances and quadrilles. A ukelele club composed of children from eight playgrounds rode past the grandstands on a brightly decorated float, playing soft Hawaiian music.



Young girl charioteers dressed in flowing Grecian robes of pastel colors made graceful pictures as they rode in authentic replicas of Roman chariots, each pulled by four boys.

Famous nursery rhymes were represented, including such characters as Old Mother Hubbard, the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe, and Humpty Dumpty. The costumes were made by the children themselves with the assistance of the playground supervisors.

Outstanding were the papier-maché heads of well-known fairy tale or comic strip characters. Each playground constructed one or two, and included such characters as the Mad Hatter, the March Hare, Alice in Wonderland, Alley Oop and Popeye.

These heads were made by an elaborate process, and took considerable time to complete. First a wire frame was constructed in the general shape of the figure to be made. The frame then was covered with clay, and then with several layers of paste-soaked paper which when dry forms a hard shell which was removed from the clay mold. Paint was applied to the shell to simulate skin and the yellow locks of an Alice in Wonderland or the bulbous nose of Popeye. An opening where the neck should be permitted the performer to insert his own head inside the papier-maché one. One of the most unusual pairs in last year's show was Alley Oop and Dinny, one of the popular strips used in local papers. Dinny, a replica of a prehistoric dinosaur, was some twenty feet in length and required two lads to shoulder his weight and carry him along in the parade.

Youthful barkers sold pink lemonade, peanuts, popcorn and balloons.

Additional acts were provided by local civic organizations. Many former circus people donated their services.

Canvas was stretched across the unused part of the field to give the appearance of a tent. For this year's show they plan to use old canvas and pipes and build

sideshows like those in the most professional of circuses.

As an editorial in one of the Evansville papers pointed out, the circus provides a way of entertaining a large proportion of the population at little expense. "But more important than the actual show," it stated, "is the fact that for weeks a thousand or more youngsters have been kept busy on twelve playgrounds practicing their acts, building ferocious animals, painting, hammering — all under competent supervision, and having much more fun than loafing in pool rooms or streets."

Here are some suggestions for the clown acts for your playground circus. They are taken from a 17-page bulletin "Suggestions for an Amateur Circus" obtainable from the National Recreation Association for twenty-five cents. The bulletin includes directions and suggestions for organizing an amateur circus with material on parades, the costuming of performers and the making of animals; suggested acts for clowns, animals and special circus artists; activities for concessions and a bibliography.

#### Clown Acts

The clown acts must be really funny. Train the clowns well after working out a number of acts in detail. Clowns, if too young, are apt to be silly and make this part of the show ridiculous instead of clever. Clowns, if present during the main acts, should not "steal the show," but they may be woven into part of some of the acts to add humor. They appear between acts as well as in a main act of their own in the ring.

These clowns were the cause of much amusement with their antics at a circus given at one of the 4-H Club camps in West Virginia



The Village Fire Company. Clown firemen put out a fake fire in a very inefficient manner. Smoke pots or smudges may be used and a fire engine may be built on a child's express wagon. A huge paper carton may serve as a house. Toy automobiles or Kiddie Kars in or on which the

(Continued on page 261)

# Recreation on a Municipal Lake

*By*

**PAUL T. GARVER**  
Supervisor  
Municipal Boat House  
Oakland, California

**L**AKE MERRITT, in Oakland, California, is a natural salt water body connected, through a system of automatic tide gates, with the waters of San Francisco Bay. This facility permits control of the water level at all times and eliminates any tidal action. With a circumference of four miles, average depth of ten feet and a total area of 165 acres, the outstanding feature of this aquatic playground is its unique location in the very heart of the metropolitan district. Fronting on the lake are the new Alameda County Court House, the Civic Auditorium, Exposition Building, Free Public Museum, Veterans' Memorial Hall, Masonic Temple, several churches and some of the finest residential property of Oakland. Main traffic arteries converge here, thus bringing the lake within ten or fifteen minutes' traveling time of the farthest school or playground.

Part of the lake has been divided off for the seasonal arrival of wild ducks which feed here at the city's expense. This area has been officially designated as a federal banding station for migratory wild fowl. Each season many of the birds are banded with a soft copper ring to check their migrations, which have shown a travel range between the Arctic Circle and South America.

## Facilities

The recreational activities on Lake Merritt are administered by the Oakland Recreation Department under the direction of the Board of Play-



Few cities are as fortunate as Oakland in having, in the heart of its metropolitan district, a lake devoted to water sports

ground Directors. Principal facilities consist of two boat houses, seven docks, three large passenger launches, twenty crew boats, thirty rowboats, fifty canoes, seven motor canoes and sixteen electric motor boats. The main boat house is devoted principally to the housing of rowboats, canoes and electric motor boats which are rented to the public. Here also is the repair shop for the maintenance of all equipment. A boat builder, mechanic and a painter are constantly employed in repairing and replacing old or worn equipment. On the upper deck of the boat house is the Sherwood Lake Merritt dining room, providing patrons with excellent luncheons and dinners and affording them an unobstructed view of the greater portion of the lake. A club room for model yacht hobbyists, with storage space for models, has encouraged this popular sport among young and old. Dressing rooms and showers for men and women are available for all crews rowing on the lake. Adjacent to the crew rooms are storage lockers

containing twelve hundred school and club crew oars.

The second boat house on Lake Merritt, known as the Canoe House, is located in Lakeside Park, adjoining the wild fowl refuge. Here the rental of rowboats and canoes is secondary to the principal activity of providing storage and mooring for private craft at a nominal charge. In the summer of 1936 the Recreation Department installed forty-two mooring posts to accommodate a rapidly growing fleet of sail boats. The lower floor of the building contains lockers for boat owners' equipment, and racks for the storage of canoes, outboard hulls and motors. The upper deck provides living quarters for the caretaker and room for picnic groups in case the weather prevents use of the fireplaces and barbecue pit at the rear of the house.

Sailboats of the Snipe, Junior Star and Skimmer classes have been found most practicable for use on the lake. A monthly program of sailing regattas offers young people and adults alike valuable sailing experience under most favorable conditions.

The passenger launches make regular twenty-five minute trips around the lake each day during the summer vacation period and on Sunday afternoons throughout the year. Passengers may board the launch at five convenient points on the shore line. Special rates are offered to groups planning a ride on the launch followed by a stop over at the Canoe House for a barbecue or picnic. During Christmas week carol singing from the launches is very popular.

### The Program

The recreational program of Lake Merritt covers three major fields: (1) the pay-as-you-go activities, such as the rental of boats, canoes, storage space, and launch trips to the general public on a cost-covering basis; (2) co-operation with various civic organizations in the planning and conducting of aquatic pageants and regattas; (3) an organized program of crew boat rowing for schools, playground groups, industrial firms and private organizations.

At least two major motor

boat races are held on the Lake each year. For several years the Mayor's Fourth of July Committee has sponsored a program of events which attracts both outboard and inboard motor boat drivers from the Pacific Coast area. Of national importance is the three-day series of races held annually in September and sponsored by the Oakland Junior Chamber of Commerce. In designating Lake Merritt as "the best one mile course in America" the National Outboard Motor Boat Association cites the following advantages: the officially surveyed one-mile oval course providing adequate room on the turns; a location in the geographic center of the city with ample space for all spectators (attendance often exceeds 25,000), and smooth water surface at all times. Plans have been completed to bring the national championship outboard races to Oakland in 1939 as an added feature of the Golden Gate International Exposition.

### Rowing a Popular Sport

Rowing has, for many years, been a major recreational activity on Lake Merritt. It is not unusual to find 20,000 or more enthusiasts, the majority being children of elementary school age, participating each year in an organized program of crew rowing. Crew equipment consists of a fleet of twenty boats. In addition there are a hundred sets of oars stored at the main boat house by various schools, both private and public, and by several industrial firms. The boats, averaging 30 feet in length with a beam of six feet, will accommodate a crew of twelve oarsmen, a pilot, coxswain and five passengers. They have been purchased from the Mare Island Navy Yard, the Alaska Packers Company and other shipping concerns. Being of wood construction, they are seldom used as lifeboats although ideally suited for recreational use after a general overhauling and slight alterations. The 1936 crew attendance figures show a total of 21,372 participants in this most popular activity. Of this number fully 75 percent were boys and girls from the elementary schools, with the balance including high school girls, Sea Scouts and industrial crews. The fall term of the

Lake Merritt has long been a major factor in attracting national interest to the city of Oakland. Originally a part of the old Rancho San Antonio, it was included in a land grant from the Spanish Governor of California to Luis Maria Peralta in 1820. Full proprietary rights to the property were gained by the City in 1909 through an act of the State Legislature, and from this date there followed a period of rapid development. Dr. Samuel Merritt, then Mayor of Oakland, contributed much time and energy, as well as personal funds, to transforming this unsightly slough into a lake of beauty and utility. Lake Peralto was named Lake Merritt in honor of this outstanding citizen.



school year is devoted to elementary boys' crews while the spring term is reserved for girls of the same classification. In each case the rowing season is climaxed by a crew regatta which can best be described by the following circular sent to each school playground director two weeks before the scheduled race.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF OAKLAND**

*Regatta Date*

The Boys' Crew Regatta will have two events:

1. Assembling and Embarking
2. Races

**I. Assembling and Embarking**

- A. Crews will be judged on:
  1. Appearance
    - a. Marching
    - b. Position of oars
  2. Embarking
    - a. Entering boat
    - b. Shove off

**II. Races**

- A. First Race—Experienced Crews 150 yards
- B. Second Race—Second Crews 150 yards

c. Third Race—Intermediate Crews

100 yards

d. Fourth Race—Inexperienced Crews

100 yards

NOTE: The best crew of a school should be entered in the first race, providing the crew has had sufficient experience. The second, third, and fourth races are for the purpose of giving crews experience in a regatta.

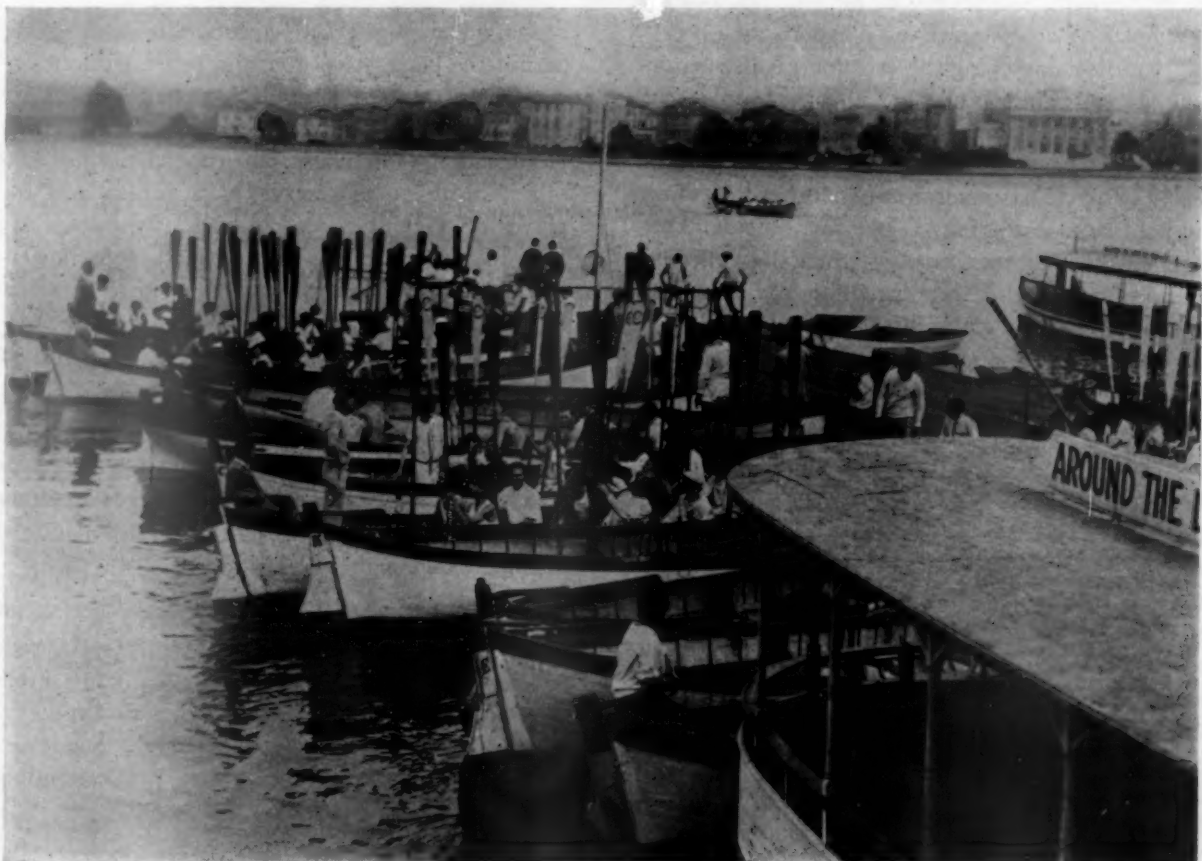
**III. Rules Regarding Each Participant**

- A. Children convalescing from illness shall not participate.
- B. Each child shall bring to the supervisor before the Regatta written permission from his parent permitting him to participate in the race.

**IV. Rules of the Race**

- A. Each boy will row or coxswain one race only. The results of each race will be final for that group. In case of a tie the tie shall hold.
- B. The playground supervisor shall sit in the bow of the boat. He shall not give any signs or motions to the coxswain during the race. In case a question of coaching arises the judges will eliminate the boat.
- C. The start of the races will be from the main float, and crews will row directly east.

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*Courtesy WPA*

## New Outdoor Theaters

**E**ARLY IN 1936 work was begun on a WPA project involving the erection of an open air Greek amphitheater at California Junior College, San Bernardino, sponsored by the trustees of the college. The project, which was completed early in 1937, has made it possible for the college to hold large gatherings in comfort outside. During the hot summer months when the college is not in session the theater will be available for many community gatherings.

The cost of the structure which gave employment to thirty men was slightly in excess of \$18,000. It is 240 feet in length and has a seating capacity of 2,400, covering about 3,600 square feet. The work included 1,160 cubic yards of excavation, 960 cubic yards of fill, 415 cubic yards of concrete, 600 lineal feet of drainage fill, and the installation of 72 lighting units.

A second outdoor project promoted by WPA involved the construction of an open air theater in Pastorius Park, Philadelphia, a fifteen acre plot in a suburban section under the jurisdiction of the Fairmount Park Commission.

The turf stage of the theater is fifty feet long by forty feet deep. The "wings" are of hemlock

hedge, so arranged with appropriate openings to permit the players to enter and retire without exposing the "dressing rooms." On either side are a group of three cedars twenty feet high, rising from clumps of dogwood, rhododendrons and other shrubs which serve as a screen for the player offstage. Grouped in back of the stage are large dogwoods, pines and a thirty foot flowering locust in the center. A hedge of prostrate yew in front of the stage forms a screen for the footlights. Outlets are installed to provide proper lighting for night performances.

A reflecting pool, fed by a natural spring, separates the stage from the "orchestra pit" which is five feet beneath the stage. Stone bridges on either side of this pool provide entrances to the stage from the theater.

Radiating, fan-shaped, from the orchestra pit is the theater, laid out on several turf terraces, which are connected by stone steps. A low evergreen hedge marks the background or "gallery," with a dense plantation of deciduous and evergreen trees beyond. The theater has a standing

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# Hobbies and Homes

**I**N THE Museum of Natural History at Pittsburgh are mounted groups of polar bears, Rocky Mountain sheep and Big Horns—magnificent specimens in natural settings, attracting thousands of visitors to catch a glimpse of the wild life of the north and west of this continent. Recently I sat in the library of the man who killed these animals, watching moving pictures he had taken of the scenes of the polar bear hunts. His home contains skins and heads as other evidences of his skill. He is a prominent lawyer of an eastern Ohio city. His wife told me that many of their winter evenings were occupied in planning his trips for the next year, that their son has accompanied him on some of these trips, that the big game hunting had developed from a boyhood love of the out of doors and of hunting squirrels and rabbits, and that long ago he had ceased to kill except for such scientific purposes as the museum groups, and that much of his hunting was now done with the camera.

## Collecting Things

Another evening in a friend's family occurs to me—the scene, when I called, of father, mother and the two children gathered around the dining room table sorting out a new lot of stamps that had just arrived, classifying them by country and denomination and date, and calling each other's attention to unusual designs or to historic events commemorated.

Collecting is a hobby that extends from stamps to big game hunting, that may include everything from the small beginnings of the dolls of all nations, belonging to a young girl of my acquaintance, to Henry Ford's inclusive collection of means of transportation exhibited in Greenfield Village.

## Creating Things

On the desk of a superintendent of schools whom I visited not long ago stood a vase with one of the most beautiful roses I have ever seen—perfect in its burnished golden color, its straight, firm stem and its close, shapely petals. Admiring it, I learned it was from his own garden, that

## Radio Talk, Parental Education Series, University of Michigan

By WILLIAM G. ROBINSON

District Representative  
National Recreation Association

flowers were his occupation and interest, outside of school, that all his family spent hours, not only in the care of the garden but in planning it.

The basement of another friend of mine has a work bench along the whole side—

power machinery for turning and sawing, shelves and hooks with tools neatly arranged. His two boys work with him many evenings and holiday hours. Model boats, model airplanes, inlaid tables, handy brackets for the bath room and shelves for the kitchen—this home is full of examples of the skill and workmanship of the family group.

In one neighborhood I know friends have commented on the delightful music that comes almost nightly after the dinner hour from a family of five, each of whom plays an instrument.

Making things—music, gardens, copper lanterns, model trains, radio cabinets, costume jewelry, landscapes, photographs—is one of the great fields of hobbies.

All of the intense interests that we commonly classify as hobbies can be included, I believe, under collecting or making. They have many common characteristics. In the first place they cut across age groups; any real hobby interest may be followed by youth or age, man or woman. Their possibilities develop with increasing age. They afford opportunity for wide and varied study, for unlimited development of skills and insights, and frequently for high qualities of invention and creation.

## A True Hobby is Personal

I do not think of those activities that require a group or team for their expression as hobbies. A true hobby is a personal, intimate matter, capable of enjoyment by oneself, to be shared only with a few kindred souls from time to time, with the family or the group organized around a common interest. All the examples I have given include the family in their expression and few influences have greater power to keep a family united than a hobby. From the standpoint of child development there is no more natural plane on which to build such qualities as affection and control and



concentration than on a hobby shared by parent and child. A hobby cannot be forced on one, even a child, but how naturally the child whose father loves to fish becomes a fisherman; how often the youth loves poetry because of the evening hours of reading aloud around the fireplace; how often the knack with tools we sometimes call inherited is really just the result of hanging around Dad's work bench.

### Riding a Hobby

There is much justification for the derivation of our word hobby from an old word for horse. The little child is fortunate who has a hobby horse to ride; the grown up who has a hobby to ride. Horseback riding is great fun and exercise at all times of the year, at all ages of life, and in all kinds of country, rugged as well as flat; it is more fun off the crowded thoroughfares of life. So with hobbies.

The horse we ride belongs just to us, for the time being anyhow. We have to manage him or perchance be run away with. We can select our own as to size and color and spirit, or decide on none. Once mounted, however, the real horse and horseman become identified in the breath-taking gallop over fields and hedges, or the gentle walk on country road. Even so we may ride a hobby, as a quiet and refreshing interval in duties, or an absorbing adventure crowding out all lesser interests. For hobbies may run away with one as well as horses.

One other likeness I hope is not too far fetched. A horse must have a place to live—a barn. Few structures are more forlorn than a garage made over from a barn—a barn without a horse. Equally forlorn to me is the home without a hobby. Isn't it the hobby that gives the house the distinction that makes it a home, the distinguishing feature that impresses you when you enter the door or even before that when you enter the gate if there is a garden? One friend

of mine has a hobby of collecting Currier and Ives prints; his wife's is old American glass. A law school professor of my acquaintance collects and makes model sailing ships. My own boy has got us all interested in moths. I needn't mention tropical fish as a possibility. Beautiful needlework is not as common with us as with our grandparents. Some homes may show the varied hobbies of the family—the violin case in the corner; the beautiful dahlias on the table; the clay model on the mantel, or the artistic photograph on the wall. Where else can collections, pets and crafts be housed than in the home? Somehow or other I am inclined to insist that the real home must shelter a hobby as the real barn shelters a horse.

We can never be sure where a horseback ride may take us. Nor a hobby. The man who knows more about the cliff dwellers than anyone else on earth is a hardware merchant in New Mexico with whom archeology is a hobby. Photography started as a hobby with George Eastman when he was a young clerk. We all remember reading very recently of the discovery of a comet by a garage mechanic, an amateur astronomer. Flying was a hobby study of the Wright brothers while they made a living from a bicycle shop.

Howard Braucher, Secretary of the National Recreation Association, in a recent editorial in the magazine RECREATION said, "Great as has been our waste of natural resources in land, and coal and oil, such waste is small compared to our waste

of creative craft capacity in men and women, for adding to the beauty of the world. Culture is not a matter of words and sounds alone. The hands may speak also, may convey messages, may reveal thoughts and emotions too deep and too sacred for careless easily uttered words. Out of the depths of a supposedly inarticulate person may come a message, sculptured, carved."

### The Rewards of Hobby Riding

But whether the hobby makes a contribution  
(Continued on page 263)

"In the glamorous days of Merrie England when Geoffrey Chaucer, the Father of English poetry, was writing his magic verse, a horse was often called a *hobby*, and as time moved on apace and the language was improved, this was changed to *hobby*. The *morris dance* was a great favorite in those pristine times and it was executed in pageants, pantomimes, at festivals and the like. The dancers wore the fancy costumes of Robin Hood, Maid Marian and other legendry characters, and there was always one of them who essayed the role of the *hobby-horse*. This *animule* consisted of a small dummy figure of a horse through whose body was a large hole; the performer slipped this figure over his own body and fastened it to his waist. As he pranced and cavorted around he was apparently riding the horse, but, as a matter of precise statement, the horse was riding him, all of which provided no end of merriment. From the antics of this burlesque *horsey* came the colloquial expression *riding a hobby*, which has come to mean the act of pursuing some object without apparently achieving any useful purpose." A. Frederick Collins in *How to Ride Your Hobby*.

# Handicraft and Recreation

By DR. ERNST HARMS  
Baltimore, Maryland

**I**F WE CONSIDER the word "recreation" in its truest sense, it means more than merely a way to fill up the leisure hours everyone has or should have in a life full of work. Recreation in its proper sense means that there is something to recreate in our being which, in the hustle-bustle and intense energy expenditure of our machine age, cannot be found in the natural means of sleep, food, rest or vacations. Modern living injures something in our existence that needs a kind of curing and healing, a kind of therapy, in our unhealthy everyday life. It is for this reason we need recreation.

Fortunately, most of us still have a natural, well-conditioned feeling that we do need such a recreation therapy. After hours clerk-stool workers hurry out for fresh air, walks or sports; those who have overused their bodies want some mental or esthetic exercise in their free time. We have an elementary propensity to find an equivalent for our one-sided professional life. Most recreational therapy, however, whether it arises from personal impulse or social guidance, is highly unconscious, unscientific and unsystematic. Consequently, all these well-meaning attempts do not have half the success they could or should have. We need a systematic and scientific recreational therapy which not only looks to certain individual desires for external joy and amusement, but which is able to rebuild and recreate the physical and mental deterioration from which most persons suffer today. It will be long until such a real and adequate recreational therapy will be created.\*

Our peculiar need is to develop in the public and in social spheres a special interest in this problem, by making the fundamental problems known and discussing them. One of the most important of these aspects for a discussion of the psychology of recreation I believe to be that of handicraft.

## Handicraft as Genuine Recreational Therapy

Interest in handicraft has been happily increasing in the past few decades. However, what usually is done in or understood by handicraft is

**This brief discussion of the psychology of recreation, particularly the analysis of handicraft and its therapeutic values, will be of keen interest to recreation workers who are eager to understand the reasons and motivation back of some of our recreational activities.**

hardly in accordance with the forms that should be developed for the task of a real recreational therapy.

By handicraft today we only mean either such things as Indiancraft and applied and decorative arts, or the playcraft of our youth in the inventor-age with its continuation in utility craft forms. That handicraft, however, which could be of influence and which is of the greatest im-

portance for the evils of our social situation, is of quite another form. It should be a serious social principle which could contribute much toward regaining the social equivalence we have lost under the unsound and unbalanced technocratic system of modern civilization. One of the most valuable effects of the social successes of such a real handicraft culture would be that of the conception of recreation which is offered here.

The importance of handicraft in this wider conception lies in the influence working with the hands and all forms of manual doing have upon human nature itself. Some time ago a clever English psychotherapist tried to introduce knitting and needlework among the English nobility as a medicine against mild forms of neuroses. This treatment was based on an insight into the real recreational value of handicraft. Such an insight, unfortunately, is very seldom found today. Handwork is regarded more as a mere "doing with the hands" and a "making" of this or that. There must be at first a very simple mental and psychic concentration, far simpler than that required for reading a scientific book, a task too difficult and psychically disturbing for many people. Simple concentration, however, is a very important element in all mental calming and in every recreation. But this is only a first element. All handicraft activity has to do with some esthetic and especially rhythmic elements.

It is really tragic that today we are unconscious of the importance all rhythmical processes have in daily existence. Our heart has its beat; we could

\* What W. R. Dunton offers in his book called "Recreational Therapy" is not identical with my use of this expression. Dunton gives only an outline for the use of physical culture and sports for the inmates of hospitals for mental diseases.

not stand upright without a sense of balance; our whole body is built on symmetrical lines. For primitive peoples recreation was and is, therefore, a necessity for the wonderful flowering of the "folklore" arts which were as necessary for these people as bread and water—and they were brought forth in answer to a human need. The greatest part of our corresponding activities today is not directed by this human necessity, but by the economic interests and processes which have built up our modern industrial and mechanistic civilization. Even modern arts in applied forms, as well as in individual fine art creations, are today conceived more along sociological and "civilization" lines than along esthetic lines which correspond to the esthetic ground-forces of human nature. The simplest piece of needlework or woodwork demands a creative effort for its very existence. We answer this esthetic and self-forming need of our being by doing such work.

A further point is that of the adaptation and re-accommodation to reality. To deal with this problem alone would require an entire book. It might almost be called the ground-principle of all our prevailing civilized activity, to replace the work of the human hand by machine or technical means. And in addition we desire a mass production in which each unit shall be as cheap as possible. Both together have this result: the individual is only to a very small extent brought into a concrete connection with all the things that compose his life-environment and his own creative activity. And so no one has the concrete relationship to reality which earlier men had. This relationship not only produced far greater values, characteristic of all earlier cultures, but also the greater mental strength and the undoubtedly greater mental health of earlier centuries.

The earlier man, who himself did all things he needed for his life, also had a greater practical knowledge, a better wisdom, concerning the world about him and his relationship to it. This does not mean that we should advertise a "*retournons a la nature*," give up all values of our civilization, produce fire by friction, make all our own tools, measure time by the sun, and do away with automobiles, railroads and the telegraph; but that we should find equivalences for this all-too-necessary orientation in a *modern educational* way. We believe science can give us all necessary knowledge, but this is only an abstract and intellectual gift. A real, practical knowledge of life cannot be gained through science alone.

There is, of course, little credence in the belief that only through handicraft can such a knowledge be won, especially through such aids as can be truly called therapeutical. Yet the necessity of having a real intercourse with the materials of our life-world, with wood, stone, metal, cloth and thread, certainly gives a sounder relationship to the whole of the civilized world than does mere second-hand reading. And to learn and practice the art of measurement; to be forced to exactness in the production of this or that object; to practice repetition and reproduction in handicraft activity, such as knitting a gown or carving a tool—these give a definite connection, a "sympathy," with all similar processes in the environmental world.

In this respect we learn great things by doing small things. Whoever has trained himself to exactitude, punctuality, eye-measuring and other skills in the handicrafts, will exhibit the same qualities in the wider spheres of life. He will be more certain in his knowledge of distance and time. He will be more prompt and will recognize many things which had been unknown or uncertain to him before. One cannot stress too much the tragic influence life in our technical and over-industrialized world has on the mass neuroses and other mental ailments of our time. The sound mind needs a concrete relationship to its environment. Without this, insecurity and anxiety create mild or even serious mental diseases. Everyone knows of the humorous types among modern professional women and borough chairmen. These and many other social-abnormal traits of our age, we usually take as curiosities; however, from the psychopathological point of view they are unhappy results of our whole civilization. They must be counterbalanced by a kind of recreation for which the best remedium seems to be a truly developed handicraft education and handicraft culture. Everyone has these traits, even if he believes they are the peculiar possession of his neighbor. Nevertheless, everyone *feels* that he needs some equivalences. Indeed, it is this very unawareness of actual causes that makes it so difficult to recognize the beneficial elements of this recreation therapy.

#### The Practical Side

Of course, this large field cannot be treated more thoroughly in such a brief article. All that can be done is to add a few paragraphs about that

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# Where Night Is Turned Into Day

**S**OMEONE has said that the only way of lengthening the day is stealing a few hours from the night. The Decatur, Illinois, Recreation Department has done just this.

Back in 1935 the city's recreation officials saw the need of lengthening the hours of play. The necessity for meeting the increasing demand for recreation with limited facilities was a real problem. The city sought to solve this problem by extending the day through the artificial lighting of its recreation areas. This was not a new idea but with us it proved a real solution. When the first set of lights was installed the recreation program was financed through the Community Chest and through contributions from the city, park and school boards. (Decatur has since voted for a permanent recreation system.) Funds for any additional developments in the way of facilities had to be secured from all who cared to share in what was to be a profitable investment—dividends in happiness and satisfaction!

The first ground was lighted as an experiment. Donations were received from industrial fellowship clubs, from the police and fire departments who put on an annual baseball game to raise money, and from dads' clubs. Labor for the erection of the lights was supplied by the city. A real transformation was the result. Boys and girls who had previously loafed on street corners or park benches took an active interest in the pro-

The only way of lengthening the day, some one has said, is to steal a few hours from the night. The Recreation Department of Decatur, Illinois, has done exactly that!

*By* CHARLES K. BRIGHTBILL  
Superintendent of Public Recreation  
Decatur, Illinois

gram, and men and women from industry joined adult baseball and volley ball leagues. The entire neighborhood showed a new spirit.

This experiment proved only the beginning of our lighting program. Not satisfied with one accomplishment, the officials in charge launched a definite program to achieve the lighting of all the grounds in the city in a certain period of years.

The following summer four more playgrounds were lighted, three of them in cooperation with the local school district. By this plan the schools and the Recreation Department shared the cost of purchasing the equipment, with the understanding that the schools would use the lights for their

*(Continued on page 265)*

The lighting of play areas makes folk dancing at night possible



# You Asked for It!

*Question: My supervisor wants me to promote leagues but my boys don't want to be bothered with regular teams. They prefer to "pick up sides" and there are always just enough on the playground at one time to have two teams. Can you offer a suggestion?*

*Answer:* More power to your supervisor! He has the right idea. He probably could tell you how to run leagues but maybe he is trying you out just to see how resourceful you are. You will please him and your youngsters and throw out your chest if you successfully organize several leagues. It can be done. Try this plan. Select four leaders. Explain that you want to try out the league idea and get them to promise to help. Supply paper, pencils, and a list of 40 or 50 names. Hold a drawing. Number 1 picks a player, then number 2 takes a man. So do 3 and 4. Now permit number 4 to pick another, then number 3, 2 and 1 make selections. Give number 1 first choice on the next round and continue until every man has ten or twelve players. Now arrange the schedule for a round or six games. Explain that captains will hold daily meetings and that each can add new names and that players can be traded (big league stuff) with the consent of the other captains. If the league has been successful and the players have enjoyed the games the teams will soon have too many players. Here is your chance to multiply by dividing! Select two, or preferably four more captains (don't be afraid of skeleton teams) and set up more teams either as an eight team league or two four team leagues. With good luck and good management you will soon have a good many teams playing in leagues.

Here are a few helpful hints

1. Use score cards and see that line ups, substitutions, goals, fouls, scores or hits are kept with accuracy. Preserve these cards. Post team standings regularly.

2. In the early days permit a team which is short of players to fill out with non-team members. A good rule

is to have the opposing captain designate the "fill in" players.

3. Have boundary lines, or foul lines clearly marked. Chalk or whiting will do indoors. Outdoors a mark can be scratched with a pick or a large nail.

4. Make it a rule never to umpire or referee. Train your officials, including score keepers and timers, at special meetings.

*Question: On hot summer days our attendance falls off because the youngsters go swimming. How can playground workers meet this problem?*

*Answer:* We are told that when the mountain would not come to Mohammed he went to the mountain. Can you blame your youngsters if they prefer to splash in cool water instead of playing on a hot playground? Isn't swimming just as beneficial as anything they might do on the playground? Why not arrange to go with them at appointed times? (Of course you will get permission to leave the playground.) If you help them enjoy their swimming hour they are likely to come to the playground for other activities. Hot weather, rainy days, and counter attractions should be regarded as a challenge to your resourcefulness.

*Question: Volley Ball is not popular with the people in my neighborhood. I like the game and want it to become a regular part of our program. Please advise me.*

*Answer:* Two suggestions come to mind. First, as to equipment. Keep your court neatly marked.

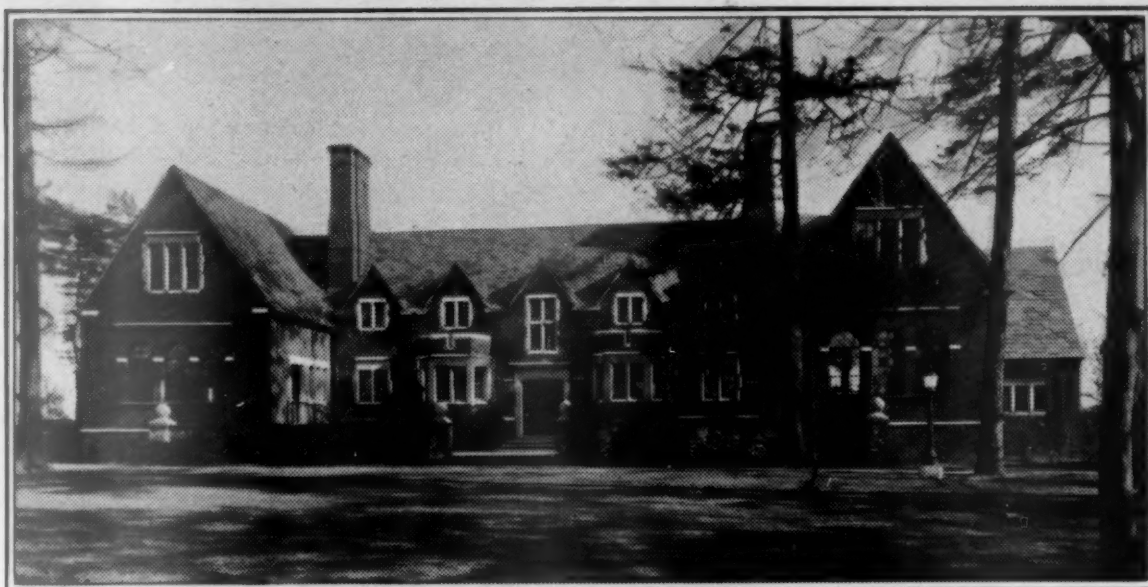
Have a good ball available at all times. Keep the net in good condition and tightly stretched. This is important. Second, to stimulate interest in Volley Ball you might break the game down to its elements and run contests. Serving for distance. Serving for accuracy — draw squares on the ground and try to hit a given square with a served ball. Put groups of five on one side of the court

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With this issue we are initiating the plan of publishing a Question and Answer page in RECREATION. L. C. Gardner, Superintendent of Wesley House, St. Louis, has started the ball rolling by sending us the material we are presenting in this issue.

The page is an experiment, and it will not be successful unless readers of the magazine give us their hearty cooperation. Write us about some of the questions which are troubling you and we will try to secure answers from those who have faced similar problems.

Let us make this page one to which readers will look forward each month.



## A Community Goes Vacationing

By CAROLYN NICE

**W**E IN MOORESTOWN made the same mistake that so many small and semi-rural communities have made when we attempted to imitate the city playgrounds in our summer recreation program. I blush to say that until last year we even called the summer program a "play-ground program," and we deliberately and inexcusably closed our eyes to the possibilities of our peculiar assets, and failed to realize that in our own backyards and the warm welcome of our cedar woods and lakes we had the equipment for a particularly happy summer! What need to copy the routine necessary to urban areas when we could look about us and see opportunities for a far richer program? In the hope that our experiment in Moorestown may prove interesting or encouraging to those who are faced with similar problems, I am presenting a brief summary of the summer experiment of 1936.

A few miles from Philadelphia, on the New Jersey side, Moorestown spreads her population of 7,500 along five miles of old King's Highway. For any kind of social activity the town must be considered in three distinct sections. Lenola, separated from the town proper by a mile and a half of farm land, is a cluster of small bungalows occupied by people attempting to own their homes. Their struggle is not only financial but cultural as well. The

Negro population of some 700, literally "across the tracks" to the north, is made up largely of a group independent through Moorestown domestic service and eager for recreation. Moorestown proper has its 4,000 typical small town home owners and house renters with the expected diversified interests. Culture and wealth have more than the usual representation in a large group of beautiful homes and estates whose owners contribute materially to the welfare and character of the town.

Perhaps we may be excused for being unduly proud of one of the finest and most beautiful community houses in the country, a gift from one of Moorestown's citizen friends. A rambling red brick house of Old English architecture gives Moorestonians access to a perfectly equipped gymnasium, swimming pool, library, rooms for games, club meetings and a nursery school. On the surrounding grounds are tennis and quoit courts and a play area. In their own offices in the building trained social workers and visiting nurses are accessible for family or individual consultation and service—and we are learning to use them all. Supplementary centers in Lenola and the colored section provide game and club rooms, and each section has its own ball field. Within a ten mile radius of the town, acres of pine woods, lakes and perma-

**Miss Nice is Director of Girls' Activities at the Moorestown Community House. The program she describes here was carried on under her leadership and that of Charles Juliano, Director of Activities for Men and Boys.**



nent camp sites offer places suitable for picnics, hiking and overnight camping. Moorestown's proximity to seashore resorts and metropolitan attractions makes a vacation recreation group an ever-changing one.

No one would have discovered, in the simple summer set-up for 1936, any trace of the artificial 1935 program. The plan read like a grand summer holiday for the entire community. One glanced down the page to find handcrafts on Mondays and Wednesdays—two hours without interruption to draw, carve, paint, saw and hammer. Alternate days held promise of cool swims for every child, free of charge, where even the most timid might learn to keep afloat. Tennis, the completely summer game, had its intricacies demonstrated and taught in the early afternoon. And the gymnasium offered space enough for everyone to try tap dancing later. An hour of story-telling, with its sequel of story play, meant dress-up fun for little girls. The spell of baseball held a summer's entertainment for all the boys, with leagues in all parts of town and a field within easy walking distance. This promised twilight diversion for girls and parents half the evenings of the week. A beach, a lake, a lunch and a hot summer day—who doesn't love a picnic? Picnics for everyone, with the weather man under contract for plenty of sunshine! Caravan trips for all day at camp, or overnight camping in the pines beside a lake promised a weekly specialty for the Girl Scouts, while the boys were booked for a trip to see the "Phillies" play.

#### Handcraft Had Its Enthusiasts

The program was not mere pleasant reading; it worked! A crowd waited impatiently for the opening hour of the handcraft period each day and trooped in, intent upon the unfinished work or eager for a new project. From simple forms of craft work which each child did as a prerequisite to the more difficult and expensive pieces, interest and endeavor ran high. From the beginning of a design on paper until the last nail was pounded there was rarely a lapse into indifference.

There were things for the children to make for themselves, and there were articles to be made for others. The major part of the handcraft allotment of \$40 went for tools, paint, nails, glue and shellac. A very small percentage bought materials, yet 250 children made 550 articles during the summer, and all of them went into use! Materials were literally picked up—scrap copper, lead

and tin from a local plumber at a nominal cost: wood from packing boxes successfully camouflaged with paint; ordinary window lights for silhouettes; serpentine for colorful ash trays and coasters, and scrap leather for belts.

#### In the Pool

In the pool the water sports were as popular as they always seem to be. The tiniest of the tiny tots stepped off the bottom step to find her nose submerged under two inches of blue water, her eyes showing round and surprised above it. Nothing daunted, she persevered until the dead man's float and swimming the width of the pool were mere preliminaries to the day's lesson. Some forty odd children under eight years of age swarmed into the pool the first period each morning, girls and boys on alternate days. With junior life savers as assistants for the more timid, every child managed to overcome fear of the water and do at least the dead man's float, while the majority really learned a stroke that would carry them across the pool. There was also an hour for the eight to twelve-year-olds and special advanced lessons for the junior life savers.

#### Irresistible Rhythm

The rhythm of music for many youngsters was expressed in bodily movement, in the interpretation of phrase and time through dancing. From Mary Ann who had just turned three to fourteen-year-old Sally, seventy rhythm-minded youngsters tapped through a summer of "Polish Your Shoe," "Rubber Legs," "Turkey in the Straw," and "East Side, West Side." For a thorough enjoyment of the rhythm of popular or folk tunes, tap, clog and soft shoe dancing offer an activity that has no substitute. More than that, it is fun—and what better recommendation could there be?

#### Baseball in All Kinds of Weather

Even the hottest afternoon did not discourage the tennis enthusiasts. With determination they swung their racquets through lesson practice and match games. Baseball, the all-American game, would spring to life on the ball field even on a hot summer day when one boy appeared, bat and ball in hand. In five minutes the game was well under way. Twilight ball for the men was nearly as spontaneous and drew all the non-playing neighborhood to cheer, advise and console the teams. Every evening found games of softball or hard

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## "Batter Up!"

Milwaukee has held its first baseball school, and the story of this interesting venture is full of human interest

"**B**ATTER UP!" America's great national game gets under way again . . . in backyards, on sandlots, in imposing and costly metropolitan stadiums. It begins, too, with new zest for Brooks. Brooks is eight—or rather eight and a half to be exact and as full of up-and-at 'em as any boy in Milwaukee's classrooms or its playgrounds. "I can't understand him," said Mother Boyce to Brooks' dad when he came home that evening. "He positively refuses to comb his hair or let any one touch it. What do you suppose has gotten into him?"

It came out when dad questioned him.

"So even though you weren't old enough, Don Dyer took you to the opening of the Municipal Recreation Department's new Baseball School? . . . u-m-m-m, I SEE!" Hadn't he been one of the 300 boys who sat with goggle eyes and mouths like O's in the social center school gym watching Fabian Gaffke show how he gripped his bat, how he stood in the batter's box and took a cut at that white pill that Lefty Grove whizzed over the left corner of the plate? "Gee, Dad, you shoulda seen 'im! He's with the Boston Red Sox now . . . they took 'im right from the Milwaukee team!! Gee, you shoulda seen 'im!" And the movies . . . Lefty Grove, Wes Ferrell, Lou Gehrig and all of them! And wonder of miracles, as Gaffke finished answering the dozens of eager questions from all over the gym, didn't he come right off the platform and sit plunk down beside Brooks to watch the movies himself. A never-to-be-forgotten moment—a hero-dream come true!



Courtesy Ohio WPA

Then Mr. Dyer had said they would have to leave, even though it was not over. Leave? Leave that precious seat? Mists had come to those brown eyes, and he'd tripped going down the aisle as he vainly kept his head turned in an endeavor to keep his hero in sight. But wise assistant director that he is, Don Dyer had glimpsed that furtive tear on the wet lashes as they had passed through the door, so he stopped and said, "Brooks, don't you think you'd better go back and tell Gaffke good-bye?" Glory be! With heart pounding like twin trip-hammers and cap twisted in twitching fingers had he not gone back through that crowded aisle and stammered a "Good luck, Mister Gaffke, an'—an', an' I hope you make good with the Red Sox!" And had not that big barrel-chested fellow with an understanding heart as big as a ball park grinned a wide grin as he reached over with a paw the size of a small ham and ruffled the hair of the eight-year-old touslehead? "Thanks a heap, son; I'll do my best for you!" he said.

"Would you comb YOUR hair, Dad, if he'd done that to YOU? *Would* you now?" Brooks wanted to know . . . no common ordinary comb was going to profane THAT touch; not *much*! "A comb can't get through a halo, Margaret," said Mr.

Boyce to his wife afterward. And it didn't for three full days!

Teach baseball to boys? Teach fish to swim? Well, nearly 4,000 youngsters like Brooks voluntarily attended the indoor sessions one afternoon a week for three weeks in four different social centers, one in each quarter of Milwaukee. They gaped at their big-league teachers who were doing their bit for American boyhood before leaving for their spring-training trips; they asked a thousand questions "When do you get up in the morning?" "What do you eat?" "Will you really see Dizzy Dean?" "How do you train?" "What signals does your team use?" Milwaukee natives, these big-leaguers with a zest for kids and a memory of their own back-lot boyhood took it swinging! Chet Laabs of the Detroit Tigers, Jack Kloza of the Milwaukee Club, George McBride, former manager of the Washington Senators, Steve Cozington, former Chicago White Sox player, Lou Nahin, Vice-President of the Milwaukee Club which last year furnished the baseballs for over seventy-five "kid" teams in the new school-boy "Stars of Yesterday" league, with each team named after a popular Milwaukee team player, they took it and liked it!

Then, after those three weeks, came the outdoor sessions of this interesting baseball school originated by Gerald Muller, one of the Departments recreation directors. These, under the direction of Bunny Brief, former third baseman for the "Brewers," ran until June, when the one hundred teams forming this year will swing into league action—over 1,200 boys playing the good old hard-ball baseball on regulation diamonds in four sections of the city! Brief, engaged by the Municipal Department for the season, ran these leagues following the eight weeks of "lessons." "Professor" Brief used the method of teaching the boys as they play, showing them how to play all the positions, illustrating the rules of the game, building into their very fibre the enduring qualities inherent in true sportsmanship. On rainy days the field house provided the natural place for "skull" talks and blackboard illustration. Before "school" was out the boys had instruction in the following:

#### CATCHER

- 1—How to size up batter
- 2—What pitches to call for
- 3—Watching men on bases
- 4—The throw to a base-pitchout, etc.
- 5—How to field bunts

- 6—How to study a pitcher
- 7—Backing up throws to first and third
- 8—How to tag runners at the plate

#### PITCHER

- 1—How to size-up batter
- 2—How to hold runners on bases
- 3—How to field bunts
- 4—Backing up throws to the infield from the outfield
- 5—When to back up the catcher on plays at the plate
- 6—When to cut off plays from the outfield to the catcher
- 7—How to cover first base

#### FIRST AND THIRD BASE

- 1—How to tag the bag
- 2—Position with no one on base
- 3—Position with men on base
- 4—How to field bunts
- 5—How to tag runners
- 6—Where to throw the ball with men on base
- 7—How to assist in running down men trapped between bases
- 8—Holding men on base
- 9—The outfield relay throw

#### SECOND BASE AND SHORTSTOP

- 1—Position of fielder with respect to type of batter
- 2—Where to throw
- 3—Holding men on second
- 4—Taking the catcher's throw
- 5—How to tag the runner
- 6—Double plays
- 7—The short outfield fly
- 8—Outfield relay throw

#### OUTFIELD

- 1—Playing the hitter
- 2—Judging the fly ball
- 3—Starting with the hit
- 4—Throwing after the catch
- 5—Where to throw on a clean hit with men on bases
- 6—Where to throw after a catch with men on bases
- 7—Backing up, infield and outfield
- 8—Relaying the ball

#### BATTING

- 1—How to grip the bat
- 2—Stance at the plate
- 3—The swing
- 4—The bunt
- 5—Hitting behind the runner
- 6—The sacrifice hit
- 7—Hit-and-run play
- 8—The squeeze play

NOTE: The Athletic Institute, 209 South State Street, Chicago, issues a number of bulletins of interest to recreational groups in teaching boys the techniques of baseball. One of these is entitled "How to Conduct a Baseball School."



# "You're On the Air!"

## A presentation of some of the values of radio dramatics in the recreation program

By RICHARD D. ALTICK  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

UP TO THE present time, the uses of radio in connection with recreational activities have been mainly of two kinds: first, broadcast programs of various sorts—musical features, talks on special subjects, and programs which have been utilized in connection with recreational projects along similar lines of interest; and secondly, programs provided by recreation departments for the encouragement of the widespread interest which exists among boys in the technical aspects of radio transmission and reception. But little has been done in another fertile field—broadcasting itself as a leisure-time activity.

There are many persons, both youths and adults, who are greatly interested in radio, which they look upon (and rightly so) as sharing the romance and glamor which have traditionally belonged to its older cousins, the theater and the newspaper. They desire a more intimate acquaintance with, and if possible even participation in, the process of broadcasting. As an adequate outlet for their interest, as well as a refreshingly new activity for established leisure-time drama groups, amateur radio dramatics is filled with fascinating possibilities.

As is well known, many great figures on the legitimate stage have turned to the radio as a new and challenging dramatic medium, and many established playwrights have found in broadcasting welcome freedom from the physical limitations of the stage. Mr. Archibald MacLeish's recent experiment in radio drama, *The Fall of the City*, has suggested the vast artistic possibilities existing in the new playhouse in which the microphone is the only visible audience and the array of sound-effect devices the only properties. The group which is found in every city, town, and hamlet, putting on plays for the sheer joy of play-act-

ing, will find radio dramatics of the keenest interest. There are no problems of stage-setting or lighting; no wearisome hours

spent in working up the proper gestures and actions; no hall to hire, no tickets to sell. The attention of the entire group is centered upon the single requisite of radio drama, which is, after all, the essence of all drama, the effective use of the spoken word.

### Advantages in Radio Production of Drama

In addition, because radio not only eliminates the visual side of the drama—scenery, properties and action—but also makes memorizing unnecessary, the company is relieved of the monotony which often creeps into even the most enthusiastic amateur enterprise as long weeks are spent in the preparation of a single evening's entertainment. Radio makes it possible to work on a new play every week, or even oftener if circumstances permit, and the company's repertoire and experience can be enlarged indefinitely. One week the play may be a farce, the next a serious problem-piece, and the next a light romance; the variety is infinite, hence interest need never lag.

Again, radio makes it possible for the first time for handicapped groups to present finished dramatic programs, since crippled children or adults, for example, can produce as polished a broadcast play as any normal group. Nor are there any financial worries in radio dramatics—for there are no expenses but the cost of scripts, and even this may be eliminated, as will be noted in a moment.

The great success of such national dramatic programs as the "Lux Radio Theater," the "March of Time," and the popular serial stories has made radio stations everywhere more than eager to schedule

Mr. Altick has for some time been associated with amateur radio dramatic work, first as the founder and director of a successful radio little theater composed of college students and young business men and women, and later as a member of the staff of a broadcasting station. His experience has convinced him that the recreation program of any community which has access to a broadcasting station can be greatly enlivened and enriched by provision for radio dramatics.

local dramatic features. Station managers are delighted to extend their facilities to amateur groups of this sort, since the regular presentation of dramas makes it possible to replace "fill-in" programs of records or transcriptions with "live talent" features of great listener-interest, and cultivates the good will of the community, without which no station can flourish.

#### Some Technical Considerations

Radio drama has, of course, different script requirements from stage plays. Action can only be suggested, either by spoken lines or by appropriate sounds, and brief explanatory comments may, if necessary, be added by the announcer or narrator. Amateur radio groups may obtain their scripts from two sources: they may either secure them at a small fee (usually two dollars for a half hour script, royalty free) from reliable firms in the large cities, which have thousands of plays from which to choose, or write them themselves.

The latter method was used with outstanding success in the company with which the writer was associated. During the summer of 1936 it presented "Headlines on Review," a series of dramatizations of memorable events from the news of the past, done in the manner of the "March of Time," with authentic material culled from the files in the morgue of the local newspapers, and later a serial dealing with the adventures of a sprightly girl, Jane Jarrett, and her friends. The fate of Jane was determined from week to week by the players themselves, who, after broadcasting the current week's episode, sat like the gods on Olympus to plan what would happen to their heroine next. Thus the story was a composite of the ideas of the entire cast, written up into final form by one of their number. The results, especially the ingenious resolution of the crisis which was invariably introduced at the end of each episode, to provide the suspense element, were highly diverting.

If the group is large, it is preferable to choose diversified scripts, complete in themselves, with fairly large casting requirements, for presentation in successive weeks, in order to use all the members as often as possible and to provide all the different "types" in the company with suitable rôles. In the smaller group, however, serials can be used to good advantage, with the same characters appearing week after week. At all events, there is no limit to the number of players who can take part in radio drama. Commercial scripts may

call for as few as two characters and as many as fifteen, while groups writing their own plays may of course tailor them to fit the exact circumstances.

The production technique of radio plays is simple and easily mastered. If no one in the group has had previous radio experience, station staff members will gladly offer advice and suggestions. Female voices are placed close to the microphone—how close depends upon the type of microphone being used—and heavier male voices are placed at a little distance. Whispered lines are spoken with lips almost upon the mike, and shouting is done several yards away. While gestures are totally superfluous so far as the radio audiences is concerned, experienced radio actors use them as freely as if they were on the stage; some cannot work up the proper "mood" without appropriate actions. But, whatever gestures are used, the players must remember always to face the microphone at a set distance—and never to make extraneous sounds!

#### Technicians May Play Their Part

Transferring recreational dramatic activities from the stage to the broadcasting studio does not mean that the mechanical crew is left behind. Instead of scenery to design, build, and erect, and lighting cues to follow, they have the important job of supplying the sound effects so essential to producing the illusion of a stage and players where in reality there is only a receiving set. They must prepare, and use at the proper cues, such diversified effects as door bells, water being poured from a pitcher into a glass, an automobile crash, heavy footsteps on the floor, and a passionate kiss (which, in radio, is, more often than not, the sound effects man kissing his own wrist before a wide-open microphone). Some of the more difficult effects, such as those of an angry mob, orchestra tuning up, ferryboat whistle, and traffic noises, may be purchased on records and "mixed in" at the proper times by the station control engineer. Nearly all commonly-used sound effects have been recorded for use by amateur groups, and are available at low prices. Most stations will purchase such effects for the use of their dramatic organizations.

The radio equivalent of the stage curtain is music, which again may be provided either in the studio or in the control room. Unless the group has a small orchestra available, an organ is the only advisable means of producing in the studio the

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# Badminton

By **HOWARD B. HOLMAN**  
Supervisor of Boys' Activities  
Recreation Department  
Oakland, California

**B**ADMINTON, a traditional English game, has become a leading adult recreational activity in Oakland, California. The development has been rapid and widespread over the city with groups springing up in widely varied neighborhoods. In school auditoriums, in gymnasiums, in church halls the game is being played by all age levels and is particularly successful with young married people.

The Recreation Department has encouraged and organized many of these groups on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. Reasonably priced rackets are available and a small fee is charged to cover the purchase of birds.

Many organizations wishing to see the game before attempting to gather a group have requested demonstrations. To satisfy these demands and to further the sport we have developed a standard exhibition program which is used as fully as time permits. The program is designed to give a quick introduction to technique, rules, and play of Badminton. The standard program is:

1. Explanatory discussion, consisting of a brief history of the game, its advantages, a description of the playing rules, description of court, racket and bird.

2. Technical demonstration (by two players) consisting of a demonstration of proper footwork, proper grip on racket, and proper swing of the racket in the various types of shot used in Badminton.

3. Mixed doubles exhibition, used largely to demonstrate the co-recreational possibilities of the

game. Four players participate with a referee in the chair to announce scoring and technical points.

4. Men's doubles exhibition, used as a climax to demonstrate the strenuous exercise derived from the game when properly played. Four players play as vigorously as possible while a referee announces point score as in the mixed doubles.

For the information of our demonstrators we have compiled a bulletin of general and technical data on the game. This bulletin is used to good advantage in preparation of the discussions and in instruction of beginners. Parts of it follow.

## Background Information

### I. General Data

- A. "The good single player must have the footwork of a lightweight boxer, the wind of a marathon runner, the quickness of eye and hand of a man fighting a swarm of bees with a lead pencil."
- B. The court—44 feet long by 20 feet wide—has two alleys 1' 6" wide on each side—a center line, a short service line 6' 6" from the net and a long service line 2' 6" from end line.
- C. The racket—miniature tennis racket—weight  $4\frac{3}{4}$  to  $5\frac{1}{4}$  oz.—strung with fine gauge silk or gut.
- D. The bird—made of a half-round cork covered with kid leather, and feathered with 16 feathers, weight 75-85 grains. (The best feathers come from Czecho-Slovakia—from



This picture, taken at the end of an overhead smash, shows both players in good form



the geese grown in captivity — feathers are oily.)

- E. The play—entirely on the volley—no bounces.
- F. Game may be played single or in doubles. Encyclopedia Britannica, "A good single match is admittedly more strenuous than a match at lawn tennis."

## II. History

- A. Rudiments of the game are known to have existed in China in several games played B. C.
- B. The beginnings of definite play—an unnamed Indian game. The British Army Southern Command took up the game and named it "Poona" after the city in which they had headquarters.
- C. Introduction to Western world—1873 at the Duke of Beauforts' estate "Badminton" in Gloucestershire, England. Started by a group of army men home on leave during a rainy week-end. Used champagne corks and chicken feathers for bird, and tennis rackets.
- D. 1885—Game was immensely popular everywhere in England.
- E. The laws of the game were codified in 1893 in London.
- F. In the U. S. A. introduced in 1876. First club, the New York Badminton Club organized in 1878. Qualification for membership—only good looking young ladies were eligible. (This is the oldest club in the world.)
- G. Pacific Coast—desultory play for fifteen years, sudden boom in last three. Now major recreational activity.

## III. Advantages and Attractions

- A. The court is small.
- B. The court is easily set up and taken down.
- C. The game is short—10-15 minutes.
- D. The rackets are light, easily handled.
- E. Requires no particular surface.
- F. Can be played in or out-of-doors.
- G. The exercise can be graded.
  - 1. More strenuous than tennis
  - 2. May be a quiet, easy game
- H. The game is co-recreational—on a par.
- I. The game is sociable—fun at any level.
- J. The game can be played at mixed levels of ability.

## Tactics

### I. Service

- A. Take position near center of court (singles especially).
- B. Determine your action by opponents' position.
- C. Always strike bird as near waist as legal—to give flat parabola of flight.
- D. Five effective possibilities:
  - 1. Short backhand—hit at top of net and to receiver's backhand.
  - 2. Short forehand—low—to draw receiver from center line.
  - 3. Long backhand—high as possible—to off-balance opponent.
  - 4. Long forehand—high as possible—to crowd opponent away from center.
  - 5. Smash—a hard hit shot—should be aimed close to opponent's body.
- E. For effectiveness the short shots must be aimed just to clear the net and drop as quickly as possible—should be hit with a loose wrist.
- F. The long serve must be high and deep to avoid a smash return. Hit with a locked wrist and a full swing.
- G. Smash service must be aimed close to opponents' body to prevent smash return. This should be used infrequently for maximum effectiveness.
- H. Attempt should be made to make the backswing and downswing of the serve exactly the same for every type of shot to prevent anticipation by your opponent.
- I. All serves should be played for corners.

### II. Forehand Shots

- A. Shots should be hit at openings—always.
- B. It is a good general rule—never to drive a shot diagonally across the center of the net. (Allows opponent to gain center court.)
- C. Shots should be hit deep down side lines when possible.
- D. Short shots should be aimed at front corners of court, never at center of net.
- E. Try to pull opponent off the center court.
- F. Try to attain the center court after each shot.

### III. Backhand Shots

- A. Hold shot if possible until opponent makes move. (Usual follow-up by opponent will be a charge toward net.)

(Continued on page 270)

# WORLD AT PLAY

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## A Community Boat Club

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COMMUNITY Service of Boston has organized a community boat club whose purpose will be to stimulate or to encourage rowing and boating on Charles River Basin. Anyone will be eligible for membership "who has contributed the cost of materials for one boat or who by his labor has contributed the equivalent of the full work on one boat, or who owns a boat and applies for membership—providing that each and all of the above submit to the regulations made by the boat club boating committee." It is proposed to charge dues of 10¢ a piece for each member of groups of ten who come together to build and use a boat for which materials have been supplied by their settlement house or other agencies.

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## A School Playgrounds Federation

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OKLAHOMA City, Oklahoma, has a School Playgrounds Federation organized in the summer of 1935, whose objective is "to maintain an organized center of thought and action among the school playground representatives of the city; to sponsor such activities as will tend to raise the standard and character of the recreational program, and to foster and increase a lively public interest therein." In the summer of 1906 there was a total attendance of 597,600 children and adults on the school playgrounds, as compared with a total number of 187,463 in 1935.

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## Honoring New York's Park Commissioner

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THE first annual award of the City Club of New York to a non-elective public official for meritorious service was presented in May to Park Commissioner Robert Moses. The award, which will be made each year, is covered by a special trust fund, the gift of Ralph M. Levey, a member of the Club. In making the citation the Board of Trustees of the Club said, "To you as Commissioner of the Department of Parks we are happy to tender the first annual award of the City Club of New York in recognition of three years of extraordinary service to the people of the City. . . . The vast achievements of these three amazing years—performed in addition

to other public construction and administration tasks of the first magnitude—are the projection of your devotion, energy and brains. They constitute in our judgment the major contribution of our generation to the improvement of the conditions of life in our city."

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## Twirling Batons

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THE report of the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Salem, Massachusetts for 1936 tells of a novel activity in baton twirling which was initiated in 1935. Instruction was given on each of the ten playgrounds at least twice and sometimes three times weekly. There was a great deal of enthusiasm among the children for this activity and there were between thirty and forty in attendance at the average class.

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## Music in the Square

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CHARACTERIZED as one of the pleasantest features of the Constitutional celebration, the daily programs given at noon by the Police and Firemen's Band of Philadelphia in Independence Square are drawing large crowds. "It ought to be considered," states a Philadelphia paper in an editorial, "whether this mid-day musical interval should not be made one of the permanent amenities of Philadelphia life when weather permits"

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## Drama in East Orange, New Jersey

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FOLLOWING the summer playground program in dramatics and dancing there was so much interest in children's drama on the playgrounds of East Orange that a Saturday morning children's theater was started. Two plays were given last fall to a full house of parents and friends. An admission charge of 10 cents was made to cover the cost of the costume material. The plays combined drama, dancing and singing, thus using talent from the various dancing classes for children of all ages held each winter at the Elmwood Park field house. The beautiful costumes used were made at the field house by a WPA sewing instructor and by children and adults attending the sewing classes.

The Little Theater sponsored by the Board of

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Recreation Commissioners was organized early in 1936 following a drama institute conducted by the Board. The present group consists of seventy-five enrolled members, men and women interested in some phase of Little Theater activity—acting, stage management, workshop programs and classes. It has attracted some of the outstanding talent of East Orange and surrounding communities, and a number of Broadway successes have been presented. The group, though sponsored by the Recreation Department, is self-governing and partially self-supporting, the Little Theater director being supplied the Recreation Department through the WPA Recreation Division. By a provision of the Little Theater constitution and by-laws, the secretary of the Recreation Commission and the director of recreation serve as members of its Board of Directors, the secretary serving as treasurer of the group. During the past year the director of recreation has served as president.

**Dancing in Mt. Vernon**—Dances are conducted weekly by the Recreation Commission of Mt. Vernon, New York, which issues season membership tickets for which no charge is made. In addition to modern dancing, the Commission since 1931 has conducted evenings of old-fashioned dances. A special night of the week is set aside for colored citizens.

**Using Available Facilities**—Faced with the necessity for increasing facilities to provide employment for the WPA and NYA workers assigned to the Salt Lake City, Utah, City Recreation Department, the department has made a successful community center of a summer playground field house equipped with a stove. Two small stores have been rented and a successful nursery school is being conducted in one, a handcraft center in the other. The department is sponsoring recreation activities in the Y. W. C. A. building and the neighborhood house.

**Our National Resources**—In the wise utiliza-

tion of our national resources there is a field for advance study and research of increasing significance. The American University Graduate School, Washington, D. C., has formulated its program in such a way as to emphasize the essential unity of the resources problem. It thus will serve also those who, being specialists in some one aspect such as forestry, wish to see the resources problem as a whole. Advanced courses in special topics will be offered for those who wish to take advantage of the presence in Washington of a number of outstanding specialists in their particular field. The courses are open to graduates of forestry, engineering and agricultural colleges. All inquiries and applications for admission should be directed to the Registrar of the Graduate School, the American University, 1901 F Street, Washington, D. C.

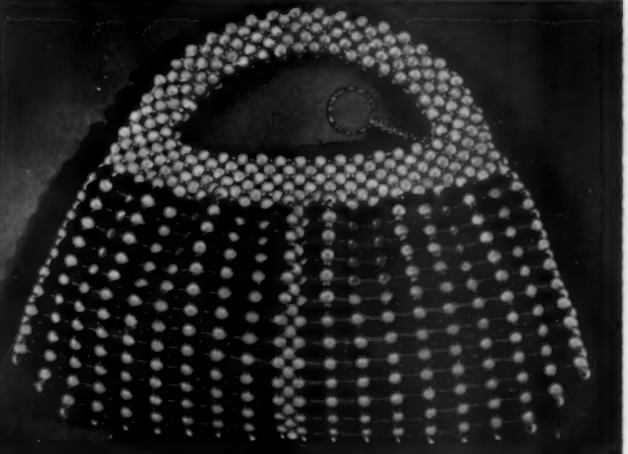
**A New Year-Round City**—Wyandotte, Michigan, has been added to the list of Michigan cities with year-round recreation programs under full time leadership. Under the sponsorship of a city recreation commission and with a six thousand dollar budget appropriated by the City Council, Benjamin Yack, Superintendent of Recreation has initiated a program of activities.

**A "Supreme Court" for Basketball**—The Department of Recreation of Akron, Ohio, has organized a "supreme court" of five members who are elected by managers of teams in the amateur basketball league of the city to pass on matters which cannot be settled by the respective league presidents.

**Important Events in Pontiac, Michigan**—Red letter events in Pontiac, Michigan, were the donation by the Kiwanis Club of two wading pools and the establishment by the Club of a five-year program including a \$500 a year gift to the playground. Under the City Engineer the WPA has constructed ten tennis courts and the Federal government has furnished leadership costing \$15,909.82, enabling the recreation program to be greatly enlarged. The factories are taking greater interest in recreation for their employees and with the help of the Recreation Department have organized athletic and sport leagues. All available gymnasiums will be used every night in the week during the winter. Overcrowding may necessitate use of school buildings, the building of a community center or a Y. M. C. A.



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**Serving Institutions**—For a number of years the Junior League of Reading, Pennsylvania, has maintained in cooperation with the School District and the Municipal Recreation Department the Tyson-Schoener Recreation Center. In addition the League pays for the salary of a worker in the recreation department to visit institutions promoting play activities. There are now nine institutions being visited by this worker. Recently the Junior League sponsored a horse show to raise money for its recreational activities.

**A Memorial Park**—In his will Arthur Williams, retired vice-president of the New York Edison Company, who died in April, suggested that a part of his estate at Roslyn Harbor including the carillon tower and the pond be set aside as a memorial park.

**Increasing a Recreation Budget**—The budget for public recreation in Dearborn, Michigan, for the coming year will be \$49,979 as against

\$32,085 for the year just closing. This provides for salary increases of the executive and important personnel in the playground and community center division of the local department. In addition a woman assistant will be employed for the first time to direct activities for girls and women.

**A Bond Issue Approved**—The voters of Houston, Texas, approved on April 5th the issuing of bonds including \$200,000 for parks and \$50,000 for swimming pools.

**Cincinnati's Radio City**—Some time ago an old gymnasium building was moved to the C. & O. grounds in Cincinnati and reconstructed. A number of election booths have been added to serve as a branch library, toy lending library, storeroom and play leader's office. A school colony building has been converted into a branch of the natural history museum, and now Radio City, so-called, has sprung up centering around a curious structure made by putting together three booths and opening one into the other. Radio City has be-

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come the manufacturing center for miniature but effective radio sets. It is the hobby shop of the C. & O. grounds.

**Community Street Dances**—Last summer the Akron, Ohio, Recreation Department inaugurated community street dances, nine of which were held during July and August with an attendance of 2,500. Certain streets were blocked off from traffic. Corn meal was sprinkled over the pavement and the asphalt street surfacing served as a temporary dance floor. Colored lights, strung overhead, lent an atmosphere of gaiety. The WPA dance orchestra furnished music for most of the dances. "These gay summer evenings," states the annual report of the Department, "provided inexpensive entertainment—since no admission was charged—for persons of all ages. They signify the return of family group entertainment with the same spirit of fun afforded by the barn dances and corn huskings of old." So successful did the dances prove that this year more are being held. The Recreation Department has added to its equipment a trailer for transporting chairs, lights and other equipment to various parts of the city.

**Park Areas in Roanoke**—K. Mark Cowen, Superintendent of Recreation, Roanoke, Virginia, reports that in January the Freeholders of the city voted a bond issue of \$48,000 for the acquisition of three new tracts of land for park purposes. These tracts contain a total of 34.71 acres, bringing the total park acreage up to 291.8 acres. Two of the tracts, all of which are extremely desirable, are additions to the city's present parks. The third is in a section of the city not at present served by a playground. The fact that it is located next to the junior high school building makes it a particularly important addition to the city's recreation facilities.

## Tapping the Reserves of Power

*(Continued from page 214)*

creative power in men is to stir the imagination to accept the responsibilities of life with a sense of adventure, to harness the resources of nature for the benefit of man, to develop the spiritual resources, to eliminate the dangers of boredom.

Directions for activities are always accessible; directions for understanding, information as to what constitutes education, is difficult to find.



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There are, however, guides in our creative darkness — a Marietta Johnson down in Fairhope, Alabama; a Mearnes and a Coleman writing and experimenting and discovering among the children at Columbia, a Kimball out in California. These have facts, living adventures to show the way. Eventually their leadership will be utilized in the training of directors of recreation.

Perhaps the recreation leaders themselves may find their own resources and develop a spiritual strength which will carry over into a new field of satisfactions and success in the development of integrated, whole, creative personalities in the children and the adults with whom they come in contact.

## The Recreation Executives Confer

(Continued from page 228)

F. S. Mathewson, Union County, N. J.  
Arthur T. Noren, Elizabeth, N. J.  
A. O. Anderson, St. Louis, Mo.  
Josephine Randall, San Francisco, Calif.  
Ernest Johnson, St. Paul, Minn.  
J. J. Syme, Ontario, Canada  
Tam Deering, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Nash Higgins, Tampa, Florida  
C. R. Wood, Durham, N. C.

## If You Are Concerned With Playgrounds~

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## **STORY PARADE**

70 Fifth Avenue . . . New York, N. Y.

V. K. Brown was selected as chairman of the organization committee; Arthur T. Noren as secretary.

## **Marionettes on Wheels**

*(Continued from page 231)*

been a lovely creature, for the people of India have been making puppets ever since. The fame of their puppets spread to Persia, Turkey, China, Burma, Siam and Java, where they were developed as shadow figures—flat, exquisitely cut puppets placed between a lamp and sheet so the audience could watch the shadow of the puppet.

Another type was worked on rods from below, another on the hand like the Punch and Judy figures, still others by wires from above, and in China and Japan they even had puppeteers dressed in black carry on the stage beautifully costumed puppets that were manipulated in full view of the audience.

It was in Japan that puppets were first used to entertain the gods in the temples, and it was probably this practise that has made the Japanese more expert than any other people in making them. In Greece, too, the puppets were very popular, and it is not surprising that the Romans followed the Grecian art. Roman emperors even made places for them in their palaces, and in the tomb of Empress Marie, wife of the Emperor Honorius who lived in 365 B. C., were found puppets of her little child. It was thirty-three years later that Alexander the Great visited Egypt to see for himself the famous marionette of Ammon Ra.

After Rome fell, early Christians adopted puppets to picture the story of Christ, especially the Nativity. This custom that began nearly 2000 years ago can still be seen in the manger display in Catholic churches at Christmas, and the little figures that now are lifeless once were animated. It was from the puppet representation of the Virgin Mary that the name "marionette," or "Little Mary," was derived.

When the puppets became too irreligious, they were banished from the church but not from popularity, and they thrived in the churchyard, then the village square, and finally in their own little theaters where, shortly after, Mr. Punch and his wife, Judy, were born.

When the Pilgrims came in the Mayflower, they brought puppetry with them, but there are stories that even they found a crude conception of the art being practised by the Indians. The puppets developed very slowly in the new land, however,

and it was not until recent years that a Renaissance of puppetry was started that has resulted in an exceedingly popular and important form of entertainment and education.

### A Cruise Party

(Continued from page 234)

7. What is a "painter" in nautical terminology? (Rope for fastening a boat)
8. What color was the boat used by the owl and the pussy cat? (Pea green)
9. "Rub-a-dub dub—men in a tub." How many were there in the tub? (Three)
10. By land time, what time is eight bells? (Four, eight or twelve o'clock)

**Court Marshal.** "Of course," said the Captain, "you may have passed the test, but no one can go ashore who has broken a rule and not worked out his sentence." He then called the names of the ones found guilty at the boat drill and ordered each in turn to do a stunt which he named. Some of the sentences were: Imitate a man putting on a life belt, sing a nautical song, show a sailor manning the pumps, imitate a man in a severe storm and do a sailor's hornpipe.

**Life on the Ocean Wave.** The Captain next acted as caller for "Life on the Ocean Wave," a square dance. Music, calls, and directions are in *Parties—Plans and Programs*, published by the National Recreation Association (Price, fifty cents). They might have used any square dance.

**Refreshments.** By this time everyone was starved and a steward went through the room with a dinner gong (xylophone type) calling out "first call for first table!" The rule was "women and children first" and all men were detailed to seat their partners at tables set up quickly in the gym. Stewards brought noise makers, confetti and serpentine and the Captain gave a toast to the passengers inviting them to enjoy themselves at the "Captain's Dinner." Sandwiches, doughnuts and coffee were served and no one found the sea too rough to enjoy them.

**Sea Chanteys.** During and after the dinner the group sang all the sea songs they could remember—*Anchors, Aweigh, Barnacle Bill, the Sailor, Sailing, Row, Row, Row Your Boat, A Capitol Ship* and *Santa Lucia*. They learned two simple sea chanteys, *Cape Cod Chantey* (In Songs for Informal Singing published by the National Recreation Association, price, ten cents) and *Blow the Man Down*. (In a number of collections of well-known songs).



### A Health-Building Game for Old and Young

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**Disembarking.** The Captain made a farewell speech to the passengers and invited them to sing *Auld Lang Syne* before they landed. Then with a hint to leave their stateroom keys with the purser, the officers lined up to bid the passengers good-bye as they went down the gangplank.

### "We Have a Circus"

(Continued from page 236)

clowns come to the fire add to the humor and excitement. Such a fire act is traditional in almost all circuses.

**A Blind-Fold Boxing Bout or a Barrel Boxing Match** with the clowns mounted on barrels will be entertaining.

**Target Shooting.** Two clowns proceed to hold shooting practice, one clown using a popgun or cap pistol to shoot at crackers held by the other. As the gun is shot the cracker is pinched in such a manner that it breaks and falls to the floor. The clown with the gun shoots from all sorts of positions and angles—from the shoulder, from the hip, backward over the head, back through the

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legs and from a reclining position. The clown with the cracker may hold it in his hand, in his teeth, over his head and in a number of other positions. As an ending a third clown may award a medal.

**Fire!** Three clowns, two candles, a small frying pan, hot dogs, matches, one small pail of water and one large pail of confetti are needed for this act. One clown enters and saunters about the ring until the attention of the audience is centered on him. Then he seats himself, lights a candle and begins frying his hot dogs over it. The other two clowns enter and move around the ring bowing and waving as they go until one notes the burning candle and cries "Fire!" Both clowns run off to bring the small pail of water to drown the fire. The first clown does not notice them, being busy with his frying and with the audience nearby, until the water is thrown. He chases the two clowns off and finds another place and lights his second candle and proceeds as before. The two clowns enter and repeat their antics, but this time they throw the confetti over the clown and swish it over the audience too. (The clown should seat himself the second time near some ladies in the audience so their screams when the confetti is thrown will add to the act.)

**Individual Clown Acts.** There are a number of stunts which can be worked up for individual clowns. Here are a few of them.

A tramp clown with his blanket roll sets up housekeeping by the ring side.

A clown has a wash tub suspended from his neck. He walks about washing clothes and interesting other clowns in getting their laundry done. A clothesline may be strung between two light poles extending from the tub up over the clown's head.

A clown may encircle the ring loaded with bundles of all sizes and shapes which he continually drops.

A clown leads a very small dog by a huge paper chain. The dog is labeled "Dangerous."

A clown dressed as a policeman pursues and arrests other clowns.

A clown on stilts can dance and run and jump or stagger about pretending not to know how to use stilts well.

There may be a Charlie Chaplin clown who stumbles over his large feet and cane.

## Recreation on a Municipal Lake

(Continued from page 239)

- All coxswains and supervisors will be responsible for keeping the crews quiet so all will be able to hear the commands of the official starter.
- The official starter will use the three point command for all races  
That is: *Get on Your Mark! Get Set! Go!*

### V. Entries

- Crew entries stating the number of crews and the classification in which the crews are to race will be due in the office of the Recreation Department, not later than . . .
- Each crew may enter one race only.

### VI. Drawing for Boats

- Drawing for boats and lanes in each race will be held at 3:30 P.M. on the day for the regatta at the Municipal Boat House office. The coxswain of each crew will draw for the lane and boat for his crew.

### VII. General Information for Crews

- Crews will organize in crew order just outside the boat house before filing on the floats.
- Crews will be judged for the assembling and embarking event as soon as they march on the floats.
- Crews will watch the regatta from the shoreline of the lake.
- Any member of a crew coming onto the



floats during the regatta, except when called for, will disqualify his crew from participating in the assembling and embarking events.

- E. Each playground supervisor will check on the oars for his crews several days before the regatta. If any question arises see Mr. Garver at the Municipal Boat House.
- F. In order that the races may start early enough to dismiss before dark, permission has been granted students participating in the races to leave school at 2:45 P. M.

### VIII. Officials and Judges

- A. Chairman of the regatta
- B. Float official
- C. Referee
- D. Official starter
- E. Head judge
- F. Judges for assembling and embarking
- G. Judges for races—1st place  
2nd place  
3rd place

The crew season for high school girls continues throughout the school year, each school concluding the season with an inter-class race followed by a picnic and "weinie" roast at the Canoe House. Practicing twice each week, these groups average one hundred in number and require eight crew boats and ninety-six oars, the latter being owned, in most instances, by the school.

## New Outdoor Theaters

(Continued from page 240)

capacity of about 2,500, and portable seats or benches will be provided for special performances.

Tall hemlocks and large dogwoods (transplanted by WPA workmen from other sections of Pastorius Park) with underplanting of laurel and rhododendrons, form a dense screen and enclosure for the theater on either side. Nearby an artificial lake is being constructed for improvement to the landscape and to provide ice skating. Additional improvements are under consideration.

The project called for an expenditure of \$66,010, of which the sponsor provided \$2,275. This, however, included considerable grading and transplanting beyond the area occupied by the theater.

## Hobbies and Homes

(Continued from page 242)

to humanity or not, it is sure to make great contributions to its rider. No hobbyist ever finds time hanging heavy on his hands. Some may be

## Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles  
of Interest to the Recreation Worker

### MAGAZINES

#### Parents' Magazine, June 1937

Summer Symposium  
(Report of successful cooperative vacation projects)

Outdoors for a New Hobby, by Eleanor Preston Clarkson

The Garden Grows with Children, by Gerald K. Geerlings

Family Fun, by Elizabeth King

#### Parks and Recreation, May 1937

Demonstration Parks in the Tennessee Valley, by Earle S. Draper

Rural Recreation Centers Adjuncts of Kansas Dam Projects

Woodland Hills Park Adds to Cleveland's Facilities Community Center Dedicated at Lafayette, La.

Toledo's Recreational Progress, by Ernie Curley, Jr.  
Recreation Association Reports on Municipal Recreation Progress

#### The Journal of Health and Physical Education, June 1937

Leisure Education and Recreation, by N. L. Engelhardt

The German Youth Movement, by Adelaide H. Miller  
Swimming and Lifesaving Program for Summer Camps, by John A. Torney, Jr.

Archery, Ideal Activity, by Paul H. Gordon  
Motion Picture Sports for Women

#### The Research Quarterly of the American Physical Education Association, May 1937

Standards in Athletics for Girls and Women

An Achievement Scale in Archery, by Edith I. Hyde  
Achievement Tests in Volleyball for High School Girls, by Esther L. French and Bernice I. Cooper

#### Esquire, July 1937

Not So Soft Ball, by Leo Fischer

#### Hygeia, July 1937

Tennis for Any Age, by Dudley B. Reed  
Off to Camp, by Regina J. Woody

#### Parks and Recreation, June 1937

Municipal Parks in the United States

A Workshop for Dramatics, by John M. Hurley  
A Hiking Trip's Bureau

#### Leisure, June 1937

Summer Camps for the Teen Age, by Bertha R. Parker

Hike for Health

The Game of Nests, by Virginia Snider Eifert

Ladies! Have a Hobby! by Vivian Starr

Shuffleboard as a Table Game, by Alice Allene Sefton

#### Child Life, July 1937

Child Life Hobby Club—Modeling, puppetry, etc.

#### National Parent-Teacher, May 1937

For the Love of Music, by Jascha Heifetz

In Our Neighborhood—Helen Doesn't Play Alone, by Alice Sowers

#### National Parent-Teacher, June 1937

Europe Challenges American Parents, by Dorothy L. McFadden

### PAMPHLETS

First Annual Report of the Akron, Ohio, Department of Recreation, 1936-1937

Play All Summer!

Recreation Opportunities in Yonkers, N. Y., Welfare Federation of Yonkers

## A Tribute to Charles Hayden

**I**N APRIL there was unveiled in Central Park, New York City, a tablet in memory of Charles Hayden, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association, who at his death left a large sum of money for the establishment of the Charles Hayden Foundation. On the occasion of the unveiling of the tablet, Mr. Hayden's brother, J. Willard Hayden of Boston, said:

Surroundings such as we view here today—trees and all manner of growing things—have forever been an inspiration to man. It is good to live close to them and reverently regard Nature's handiwork. Man may invent a machine, he may compose a wonderful symphony, he may accumulate a very large fortune, he may write a beautiful poem or paint a lovely picture, yet only God can make a tree. We see its leaves unfold year by year, its branches stretch nearer and nearer toward Heaven. It is altogether appropriate that an occasion such as this should remind us once more of the miracles taking place about us. To this galaxy we now add this maple sapling confident that it will grow into a wide spreading tree. "An emblem," as Washington Irving has written, "of what a true nobleman should be; a refuge of the weak—a shelter for the oppressed—a defense for the defenseless; warding off from them the peltings of the storm, or the scorching rays of arbitrary power."

So this place gains an added attraction and we know that many will gather and enjoy some fruitful result of its planting.

I regard it as a particular honor to be present to witness this evidence of esteem and thoughtfulness which has actuated your committee in placing this tree in memory of my brother. The work which you have done in making this park the lovely place it has become, your constant efforts to improve it, have made your city in no small degree a better place in which to live. I am proud of the fact that my brother has made these efforts in some degree possible.

Your act also calls for expression of thoughts which today are almost forgotten sentiments. It is fitting that you do honor to the spontaneity of action that characterizes gifts in aid of this laudable enterprise. It is better, it seems to me, that the individual should be prompted by the desire to improve the lot of his fellow men, the lot of those less fortunately situated, rather than that these acts should be left to expediency and wrung from a more or less unfeeling and indifferent government. What one does for the love of doing, gives for the love of giving, is bound to be more productive of lasting fruition. Barriers should not be imposed that tend to discourage this thoughtful benevolence.

As I now unveil and reveal this plaque placed here in memory of my brother, I express to you and your organization my profound gratitude for this mark of appreciation of the man who was so near to my heart and whom you thus honor.

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bres to their friends but never to themselves. They are never the "empty barrels," an eminent English educator called those people who have to go to commercial entertainments, or worse, to have their leisure filled. The collector and creator have something waiting for every unemployed minute—never lonely, never bored.

This hobby interest then is a protection, a release from the routines or worries of life, an important one, the professors of mental hygiene tell us. They also tell us of another mental health value to hobbies—one that comes from achievements, the pride in having the best collection of coins or the cleverest example of block printing.

In his delightful book "A Guide to Civilized Loafing," Overstreet sums up some of the values of a hobby in crafts by saying, "This is what it means to handle materials. We yield ourselves to them; they give us back our reward. It is a sad thing that so much of this has gone out of modern life. We have learned to press buttons and send checks—and presto, we have what we wish. But excellent as are many of the commodities that come to us, and difficult as our life would be if we could not thus easily secure them, there remains the need to keep ourselves intimately associated with materials. We need to handle earth, to handle wood and stone." And he goes on to say, "There is doubtless no more character-forming occupation than to work affectionately with materials. Disciplines come—self-control, patience, the power to hold an objective steadily in view, respect for that with which one is working, concentration, skill. These are the admirable qualities that are needed in a society, but they are also the qualities that give the greatest happiness to the individual." And Overstreet concludes, "The undisciplined, uncontrolled, impatient soul, contemptuous of ends and incapable of holding steadily to a purpose, is the continuously unhappy one. On the other hand, he who achieves mastery in the handling of resistant material is on the way to the conquest of life."

The thing that is sometimes hard for parents and teachers to realize is that so many of the values in physical, mental and moral health that we want for our children may come to them un-

consciously through activities that are fun or play. The poet, Masfield, says, "The hours that make us happy make us wise." Hobbies are one of the joy giving channels of life which may start as a tiny spring of interest gained by the child from example or exposure, grow to a swift current of healthy interest and skill during youth, and become a broad lake, deep with meaning and self-expression for age. And all may be found in one beautiful sheltered valley—the home.

## Handicraft and Recreation

(Continued from page 244)

side of the whole problem in which the readers, having followed the theoretical first part, will certainly be most interested—the practical side.

Handicraft as the cultural "self-doing" principle—the phase in which I have wished to introduce it here to those interested in problems of recreation—has, of course, a widespread use today aside from the forms mentioned in the introduction. Our sports and play, even amateur musicales, dramatics, and other "diversions" that are practiced more and more today to fill up unused time or "to do something useful for the home," contain the principle of handicraft. In fact, there is a whole sphere of handicraft activity today. The practical problem, however, is how this may be arranged in a serious manner to have a truly therapeutic effect that would be more systematic than the present set-up.

Concerning this therapeutical effect, however, it is often true that the most simple activities have a much greater effect than those which are artificial and highly impressive, or require great effort. Simple needlework, woodcarving or music are more effective from a therapeutical point of view than the great expenditure of effort in sport or play. In fact, the more interesting, more entertaining, or more impressive activities often exert an almost negative effect. The pleasing and amusing factor should, of course, always be taken into consideration in all handicraft education, especially in its therapeutical and recreational form, because it has in itself a great therapeutical value. But on the whole, this recreational handicraft must be based on principles which are directed by the therapeutical viewpoint. All other viewpoints are of secondary importance. All human measures, especially if they are those that shall reconstruct, rebuild and heal, must be accomplished with a deeply conscious and experi-

## *Why Not A Rhythm Band on Your Playground?*

- There is now available a booklet, "Starting and Developing a Rhythm Band," by A. D. Zanzig which will give you just the information you need in organizing "Kinder Simfonies" on your playground.

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enced background. Accordingly, we need such a clearly-worked out handicraft-recreation therapy if we hope to wage a successful fight against the factors which are undermining the healthy life of our culture and civilization.

## Where Night Is Turned Into Day

(Continued from page 245)

athletic fields during the football season and the playgrounds would use them the rest of the time. The saving that resulted made it possible to light three grounds instead of one, and that old bogey "duplication" suffered a terrific setback!

Money for the fourth ground was obtained in much the same way as were funds for the others, the only exception being that a newly formed neighborhood club played a larger rôle in creating neighborhood enthusiasm. In this instance, labor for installing the lights was furnished by the Illinois Power and Light Company.

The fifth ground was lighted by the Junior Association of Commerce. This group of young men held a "Light a Playground" dance which was widely publicized. All the proceeds went into the lighting project.



## Among Our Folks

**G**EOERGE SPERBECK has become Superintendent of Parks and Playgrounds of the city of Alameda, California, taking the place of A. C. Benton who formerly served as Coordinating Director of Physical Education and Recreation.

James J. Tunney is now Director of Recreation in Alhambra, California.

Chico, California, has been added to the cities conducting a year-round recreation program. Ralph E. Hensley is Superintendent of the Recreation Department.

A number of changes in recreation executives have been reported from Florida cities. R. O. Eberling is Director of Public Recreation at Daytona Beach, having taken the place of Raymond Clancey. Mrs. C. G. Merrick has become the Director of Recreation at Fort Myers. Arthur C. Black is now Executive Secretary, Recreation Commission, West Palm Beach.

The position of Superintendent of Parks and Playgrounds has recently been created in Atlanta, Georgia, and George I. Simons has been appointed to the position.

Weldon B. Wade has become Director of Recreation in Sycamore, Illinois.

Harold L. Brigham is Superintendent of Recreation in Louisville, Kentucky—a position formerly held by Walter R. H. Sherman.

The new director of Recreation and Physical Education in Ypsilanti, Michigan, is James W. Shaffer.

The position of Director of Recreation and physical Education in Montclair, New Jersey, formerly occupied by Franklin G. Armstrong has been taken by Arthur J. Garthwaite.

Peter J. Mayers is serving as Superintendent of Recreation in the Department of Public Welfare, New Rochelle, New York.

Thomas Clark has become Director of Recreation in North Tarrytown, New York.

The successor to the late J. J. McCaffrey, Superintendent of Recreation in Providence, Rhode Island, is H. J. Bishop.

Under an agreement between the Dayton, Ohio, Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Recreation and the National Recreation Association, Robert K. Murray is serving for a period of months as full time recreation executive for Dayton.

In one or two cases the City Council of the Parent-Teacher Associations came to the rescue in helping to provide lights. Once a neighborhood club needed a few dollars to complete its lighting program and made a door-to-door canvass for funds. At another time service clubs helped financially. The labor for the fifth ground to be lighted was furnished by Postal Telegraph Company employees who gave freely of their time after regular working hours.

During the summer in which four additional playgrounds were lighted attendance jumped from approximately 100,000 to over one half million. A huge program of industrial softball, combined with the opportunity to participate in other sports such as volley ball, paddle tennis, horseshoes, and the like, created new playground traffic problems. It was amazing to see how areas that were only fairly well attended before artificial lights came into the picture, swarmed with people after their installation.

For those readers who are "maintenance-minded," it will be interesting to know that light is at present being supplied by a public utility at special rates. Owing to the fact that the grounds were not located near city power lines that would carry the load and because the cost of connecting with distant city lines would have been prohibitive, it was necessary (if more than one ground were to be lighted) to use private power. However, it is planned to put at least one ground back on city power each year until all have been so set up.

This year two more grounds are being lighted. That there was a need to light areas for more than the reason already mentioned is best demonstrated by the captain of police who said, "Since lights have been installed the number of night police calls in those neighborhoods has been cut in half." To justify further the need for lighted areas, spot maps of the section of the city to be lighted have been prepared. These maps show the number of young people in the area now in reform schools, the number of arrests of boys and girls under twenty-five years of age, the number of potential delinquents, and the number of problem children from schools adjoining the area.

Not only are the lights used for softball, a sport rapidly growing in popularity, but they have also made it possible to conduct weekly folk dance festivals on playgrounds during the summer evenings. Perhaps the most interesting of the community's events is this weekly outdoor occasion

when hundreds of children from all parts of the city dance for an hour beneath the man-made sun. During the fall months football and soccer teams can be seen playing at night, and when weather permits the areas are flooded and used at night as well as day for ice skating.

Artificial lighting has now become an institution in this city, with each neighborhood doing its best to see not only that its facilities are developed but that they are used. The lighting of outdoor recreational areas has perhaps done more toward improving the facilities than any other single development. If you, too, are looking for a "sure-fire" method of stimulating interest and encouraging participation, let them have light!

### You Asked for It!

(Continued from page 246)

and have them bat the ball among themselves to see how many plays can be made without dropping the ball. If group A bats the ball twenty times the other groups try to make more plays. With younger players, especially girls, allow them to modify the rules. For instance, permit a served ball to be played by team mates before it goes over the net. Also allow a player to hit the ball more than once. Sometimes novices get more enjoyment if allowed to play the ball on the first bounce. Arrange for two good teams from a Y or another playground to play exhibition games. Start a four team league among your people even though they play poorly and are not greatly interested.

*Question: How can I stimulate interest in track and field sports? A few of my boys like these sports but most of them are indifferent.*

*Answer:* Get four enthusiasts together and ask them to help. Then propose that each head a team. Each selects a color, say Red, Blue, Green, and White. Get a large card of each color. On these cards enter the names as selected by the leaders. Each team will be divided into weight or height classes. Have a meet each week for each class—with only three events. Score a point for each man who participates. Additional points to be credited to individuals and teams for winning events on the basis of three points for a first, two points for a second and one point for a third. Keep individual and team totals posted on the cards. Each team leader is encouraged to add

## Playground Helps

- A final reminder about some of the inexpensive guides designed to help you in your summer playground program.

**Games for the Playground . . . . \$ .25**

(Some typical active and quiet games for children from six to fourteen years of age)

**Conduct of Playgrounds . . . . . .25**

(A practical guide for the playground worker)

**88 Successful Play Activities . . . . .60**

**Suggestions for an Amateur Circus . .25**

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members to his team and since the point total depends on the number who participate rather than on ability to win, captains will scout for men. This plan can run for a whole summer or for a few weeks before a big inter-playground meet. It may not work perfectly but it will stimulate interest in track sports.

*Question: Another playground worker and I can not agree on the subject of treating minor injuries. He contends that we should ignore them while I feel that because of the danger of infection we should regard injuries as important. What do you think about it?*

*Answer:* Perhaps there is some merit in both points of view. Certainly cuts, scratches, blisters, and bruises should receive attention. But would you say that a recreation leader is justified in leaving a happy group to its own resources while he gets iodine, bandages, soap and water and proceeds to do an artistic job of first aid? Is he employed as a recreation leader or a bandager?

Your playground might conduct a First Aid Class and follow it up by organizing a First Aid Corps of boys and girls whose duty would be to

## "How To Produce a Play"

» » A series of articles by Jack Stuart Knapp which first appeared in a number of issues of RECREATION have been brought together in a booklet just off the press.

» » Choosing and casting the play; the rehearsals; the final performance; suggestions for costuming, make-up, lighting and scenery, make this an exceedingly practical, helpful book for the inexperienced play director.

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take care of injuries. Thus the director is able to give his attention to his primary duties and at the same time know that necessary first aid is properly handled.

## A Community Goes Vacationing

*(Continued from page 248)*

ball on at least two of the four fields, a crowd in attendance.

Climaxing weeks of baseball playing and an eager watching of the League scores, came the annual event of the season for the boys—the trip to see the Phillies play St. Louis. Three hundred boys piled into cars driven by Rotary and Y. M. C. A. club members to drive to the Philadelphia Ball Park.

### Picnics and Camping

Nearly as momentous events were the picnics. Early on the morning of the day set, children began to arrive singly, in groups or with parents, all with bathing suits and lunch. After an hour on the bus, made gay by singing, the groups reached a wooded spot by a lake. Mothers spread blankets and sat and read, mended or chatted; children

## Service Helps

*(Continued from the June issue of RECREATION)*

Fred Medart Manufacturing Company, St. Louis, Mo., pioneer manufacturer of equipment and apparatus used by children in schools, parks and playgrounds, reports an unusual degree of interest and activity this season, on the part of buyers in both new equipment and replacement parts. This observation includes both the Medart line of Playground Apparatus and the Medart line of Water Sports Equipment. This manufacturer offers a Playground Apparatus Catalog No. P-3 and a new Water Sports Equipment Catalog No. W.S. 1. Complete engineering service embracing analysis of proposed layouts and recommendations based on "Medart's" 64 years of experience is available without obligation to all interested parties.

dashed off to change to the bathing suits in which they spent the rest of the day. Only at noon did they come out of the water to put away incredible quantities of food. Then followed rest and games before a final swim, and the trip home.

A winter of knot tying, trail signs and nature study, suddenly came to life for the Girl Scouts with their initiation to overnight camping. Preceded by an all day trip that included hiking, swimming and cooking out and by a day in an organized camp, the overnight trip promised to be a marked success. The girls were taken in a bus with blankets and food some fifteen miles from Moorestown. They then walked through pine woods for a mile and a half to a suitable camp site. There was time for a swim before beds were made and supper prepared. Then followed an evening of singing about the evening fire, a marsh-mallow roast, and perhaps the most exciting of all—sleeping out all night! In the morning a dip in the lake was followed by a breakfast of crisp bacon and eggs hot from the frying pan. Sleeping out was great fun in the opinion of the girls, and the next trip was eagerly anticipated.

### For 1937—What?

And what of this year, 1937? So many things are possible that each crowds the other for attention. Nature study through twilight and star hikes, early morning camp breakfasts and puppetry are sure to be three additions to the program. The craft shop will have another session at each center devoted to stage craft and the making and dressing of the puppets, while an afternoon group will use the puppets in dramatizing such favorite stories as "Cinderella" and "Little Red Riding Hood." The Girl Scouts are already planning for a week-end camp and a day's canoe trip. Bicycle trips, novice tennis tournaments and



stunt swimming meets will be open affairs. Thus we shall enlarge our experimental program, every activity being carefully considered before being accepted for a program designed to utilize our community's resources and interests to the utmost.

### "You're On the Air!"

(Continued from page 252)

musical interludes ("bridges," in radio parlance) which indicate changes of scene and lapses of time. Otherwise the interludes are inserted from recordings. Appropriate standard musical selections may be used, or, even better, music written and recorded especially for such programs, each record being designed to fit a particular situation, such as "Omens" (mystery), "Orientale," "Agitato" (emotional tension), and "Rushing Waters" (excitement).

These brief notes on some of the aspects of radio dramatic production will reveal how interesting broadcast plays really are—for the director, for the players themselves, who must convey every idea and emotion by word of mouth, and for the technical crew, to whom each play brings new sound effect requirements which must be met if realism is to be achieved. But the activities of the group need not be confined to the studio. Most people are in total ignorance of what goes on in the studio while their favorite dramatic hour is being produced. Therefore they welcome an opportunity to witness a "behind the scenes in radio" program in which the mysteries of the broadcast drama are explained. The author's amateur company has made many successful "personal appearances" before clubs and other organizations in which, with the aid of a microphone and all the varied sound devices, actual demonstrations are given of the technique of radio play production.

Nor need amateur dramatic groups exist for their own sake alone. They are in constant demand to aid in various publicity campaigns such as those attendant to community chest drives. Radio dramatizations of welfare work have been notably successful; during one campaign a year or two ago, the Chicago Associated Charities used about a score of such playlets, which have been mimeographed for adaptation and use by similar organizations throughout the country. And it often happens that successful play-casters are engaged by commercial sponsors. For example,

(Continued on page 270)

## "The Five Day Week Brings Opportunity"

THE DISCUSSION of industrial men at the Congress in Atlantic City centered around these words: "Five Day Week Brings Opportunity." "Although we do not know yet how this time will be filled," they said, "it is obvious that picnics and outings will form a greater part of the summer program. The Saturday holiday is expected to result in recreation being sought farther from home."

The industrial world was shocked a few weeks ago when the Carnegie Illinois Steel Company reduced its work week from 48 to 40 hours. Other companies followed its example. Carnegie Illinois with 100,000 employees, thus set free 800,000 leisure hours a week or 41,600,000 leisure hours a year! The recent action by other companies would add their quota thereby enlarging the opportunity. The industrial group foresees that the five-day week will change the whole nature of industry's leisure time opportunity. Adult and family recreation leap into prominence. Parks, camping, picnic trails have new significance for workers when they with their families can go out for a week-end of two full days. Having two days together makes possible many types of recreation which are not possible during other spare hours.

Now is the time for careful thinking and planning for the best use of the rapidly growing leisure period in American life. All of the evidence points to more and more organizations adopting the five day plan.

France, on one week's notice declared a national five day week, effective April 1st last. Most workers get Saturday and Sunday off, but shops and department stores close on Sunday and Monday. The people were not prepared for such sudden action. Shopping districts were deserted and crowds spent the extra day strolling along the broad avenue of the Champs Elysee, and in the parks. Lots of leisure and nothing to do! Shop keepers were indignant. Workers refused to discuss the question with an American reporter because, they said, "the change is so great that a new mode of life would be necessary." Thrifty housewives were afraid the change would take money from the home to be spent in drink. The men are not so much concerned. Fishing in the Seine, suburban gardens for the better class and sports for youth are immediate subjects of discussion.

France's Minister of Leisure, Leo LaGrange,

faces a critical decision. Will he study the rigid militaristic development of physical recreation in Russia, Germany and Italy? Will he look to England who, deeply concerned about the physical welfare of her youth, now plans to spend \$10,000,000 primarily for the development of facilities for recreation? (This concern arose unfortunately over a condition that was revealed in military recruiting efforts). Or will France face her leisure problem with its humane aspects uppermost—seeking opportunities for better living for her people rather than deliberately building sturdy bodies for cannon fodder. Other European nations prepare through recreation for war and death. May France prepare for peace and life!

### **You're On the Air!**

*(Continued from page 269)*

the various motion picture companies prepare fifteen-minute dramatic scripts based upon their new films, which they supply to the theaters booking the pictures. The theater managers, recognizing the advertising value of these radio previews, engage the local amateur radio group to produce them in advance of the showing of the films.

Thus broadcast sketches offer a novel and highly interesting activity for any group which is looking for new fields to conquer or for means of becoming more familiar with the world behind the microphone. Few recreational activities provide greater thrills than that of the moment when the winking of a light below the microphone signals, "You're on the air," or more genuine satisfaction than that which the entire group feels when the musical curtain has fallen on what has proved to be an adequate presentation of a well-written radio play.

### **Badminton**

*(Continued from page 254)*

- B. Hit shot at opening left by opponent's rush.
- C. Attempt to drive shot down side line.
- D. Drop shot by blocking bird toward front corners.
- E. Let bird drop down below waist.

#### **IV. Lob Shots**

- A. Make a lob "clear"—that is make it high and long.
  - 1. High enough to clear opponent's maximum reach.
  - 2. Within 5 feet of back line.

- B. A lob which falls in center court is a lost point.
- C. After lobbing—hurry to center court position.
- D. An excellent defensive maneuver to recover position.
- E. Try to disguise shot when possible.

#### **V. Soft Shots**

- A. Should always be aimed with 12 inches of junction of net and side line.
- B. Should be aimed within 4 inches of top of net.
- C. When playing a soft shot from the opponent, a good policy is to try to drop the shot in the opposite corner by a low flat shot along the net.
- D. The soft shot can be delayed to add deception.
- E. Use the soft shot mixed with other shots—vary the play.

#### **VI. The Smash**

- A. Should be for an ace.
- B. Hit full and hard.
- C. Alternative placements:
  - 1. Along forehand side line,
  - 2. Along backhand sideline.
  - 3. At opponent's feet.
- D. Try to force opponent to raise his return shot for a second smash.
- E. Must be used at proper moment for efficiency.
- F. Play all short lobs or short lob services with a smash.
- G. Is not fully effective from back court.

#### **VII. General Tactics**

- A. Maintain center court position.
- B. Disguise your intention on every shot possible.
- C. Make your opponent declare himself—then hit behind him.
- D. Don't allow your footwork to betray you.
- E. Try to anticipate your opponent.
- F. Vary the game—don't use the same stroke in the same situation every time it occurs.
- G. Use the wrist as a swivel for quick directional changes of shots.
- H. Smash for put-away shots.
- I. The best defense against a smash is to simply block it.
- J. The best defense is a good offense.
- K. Watch the bird closely.
- L. Nearly every player has a habituated reaction to certain situations—use them to your advantage.

## New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

### "First Aids for the Naturalist That Fit the Pocketbook"

Some inexpensive nature material by William Gould Vinal. W. F. Humphrey Press Inc., Geneva, New York.

"NATURE RECREATION IN A NUTSHELL" might well be the title of this collection of material which play-ground leaders who are developing nature activities will find invaluable. The following inexpensive leaflets and pamphlets are available: *Nature Games*, 1936, 32 pages, 10 cents each—in quantities of 100, 8 cents each; *The Nature Guides Dictionary*, 1936, 17 pages, 10 cents each—in quantities of 100, 8 cents each; *Bird Calendar, Key and Check-List*, 1937, two for 5 cents—in quantities of 100, 2 cents each; *Tree Calendar, Key and Check-List*, 1937, two for 5 cents—in quantities of 100, 2 cents each.

### Investing Leisure Time

By Frank H. Cheley. The University Society, Inc., New York City. Paperbound, \$60; cloth, \$1.00.

THIS BOOK is one of the personal engineering series prepared under the supervision of the Editorial Board of the University Society. It presents the significance and philosophy of play not only in reference to the individual's personal happiness but his usefulness to his friends and associates and the age in which he is living. The book is a stimulating one for the individual in choosing the forms of recreation best adapted to his needs and interests. The section dealing with hobbies is particularly helpful.

### Touring with Tent and Trailer

By Winfield A. Kimball and Maurice H. Decker. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York City. \$2.50.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING a tour with tent and trailer, your first investment may well be this book which will tell you how to travel comfortably, enjoyably and economically! It will save the new trailer tourist many mistakes by telling him what not to take, how and where to camp and other essentials of touring. The book gives an outline of the best travel routes and hints for caring for the motor while traveling. There are special chapters on women motor campers and camping with small children.

### Swinging into Golf

By Ernest Jones and Innis Brown. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York City. \$2.00.

PART I OF THIS PRACTICAL BOOK is devoted to an exposition of the swing technique, and there are diagrams and pictures to illustrate the various points which Mr. Jones brings out so clearly. Part II deals with general observations and comparisons of the Jones' system with other methods.

### Dramatic Tournaments in the Secondary Schools

By Magdalene E. Kramer, Ph.D. Bureau of Publications, Teachers' College, Columbia University. \$1.85.

THE DRAMATIC TOURNAMENT, as an activity in the secondary schools, is rapidly expanding and is absorbing an increasing amount of the time and energy of both students and teachers. Furthermore, it is the center of a controversy which has arisen among educators regarding the evils and the values alleged to be associated with it." With these facts in mind the author sets out to determine what are the educational values of the tournament in order to make specific recommendations regarding the place of such tournaments in the secondary school program. A careful inquiry as to actual practice in this field has been made and the resulting facts set forth. Teachers and directors of tournaments have been quizzed and their opinions are listed and appraised. Interesting and important questions are raised. How are tournaments organized and conducted? What is the effect of the extra work load on students and teachers? How are tournament judges chosen? What awards are given? What is the effect of competition in tournaments? What are the real educational values of such tournaments? These and many other questions are answered in the questionnaires from the field and evaluated by the author.

### Young Children in European Countries

By Mary Dabney Davis. Bulletin No. 2, United States Department of the Interior. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. \$15.

THIS REPORT IS A RESULT of a study by Mary Dabney Davis of programs for young children in a number of foreign countries. Miss Davis, who has been developing the Emergency Nursery School Project in this country, secured information by personal visits to England, Scotland, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Austria and Hungary, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Poland. Her report is an exceedingly interesting and informative document on nursery schools and similar developments for little children.

### Stunts with Numbers, Games and Cards

By William M. June. Bodley and Pike, 105 Canal Street, Syracuse, New York. \$25.

HERE IS A HANDBOOK of stunts and games which may be played anywhere at any time with little preparation or equipment. In addition to the mental games offered, there is an interesting account of the origin of numbers.



**Preventing Crime.**

A Symposium. Edited by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York City. \$4.00.

One of the most hopeful signs of the time is the growing interest on the part of all classes of citizens in the question of delinquency and crime prevention. Citizens' organizations of many kinds are being formed throughout the country and many books have recently been written on the subject. One of the most comprehensive of these publications is *Preventing Crime* by the Gluecks. It is a volume of more than 500 pages dealing with the philosophy and principles of crime prevention and the various methods which have been devised to cope with the delinquency problem. The types of experience have been carefully selected and grouped under six major headings, with examples of each. These headings are: Coordinated Community Programs; School Programs; Police Programs; Intra-Mural Guidance Programs; Extra-Mural Guidance Programs; Boys' Clubs and Recreation Programs. As a guide for workers the Gluecks set down definite principles for crime prevention. A study of these programs indicates clearly that there is no one complete answer to the delinquency prevention problem and that there is necessity for more complete coordination of all preventive agencies. The evidence of aroused citizen interest and of a new experimental attitude is encouraging.

**Costumes for the Dance.**

By Betty Joiner. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York City. \$2.75.

The purpose of this book is "to aid the teacher and dancer to appreciate and achieve the definite unity between the design of the dance and the design of the costume." There are six plates in full color containing ten individual costumes together with forty-eight line and wash drawings. The pattern drawings and directions on how to make costumes out of inexpensive material make the book essentially practical.

**A Directory of Organizations in the Field of Public Administration—1936.**

Public Administration Clearing House, 850 E. 58th St., Chicago, Ill. \$1.00.

The past few decades have seen an impressive growth in the number of voluntary associations, organizations and agencies concerned with questions of public administration. This volume lists and describes more than 500 national organizations of public officials and national organizations active in this important field, including some thirty or more formed since 1934. The directory is a guide to sources of information on all types of governmental problems.

**The Picnic.**

Story by James S. Tippet. Illustrations by Samuel J. Brown. E. M. Hale and Company, Milwaukee. \$15.

Here is another of the Picture Scripts series issued under the sponsorship of the cooperating editors at Lincoln School, Teachers College, Columbia University. This time it is a jolly, delightfully illustrated booklet showing little Negro children on a picnic.

**The American School and University—1937.**

American School Publishing Corporation, 470 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. \$5.00.

The increasing emphasis upon play in the school curriculum and the growing community use of school buildings are reflected in the ninth annual edition of this publication. Recreation workers will find much of interest throughout the entire volume. Of special value, however, are such articles as: "Principles of Effective Plant-

ing of School Grounds" which contains many practical suggestions which are applicable to play areas; "A Score Card for Measuring Physical Education Facilities" which suggests the relative value of various features of physical education buildings; and the practical and very helpful article "Outdoor Areas and Facilities for Physical Education—Their Planning and Maintenance" which is accompanied by excellent illustrations and plans of school play areas in Pasadena, California. Particularly useful also is the comprehensive directory of university, college and school officials and the list of architects and landscape architects who have had experience in the designing of school grounds and buildings. The entire volume is logically and attractively arranged, carefully indexed, and should be a valuable addition to the reference library.

**Play Days.**

By Clara I. Judson. Grosset and Dunlap, Inc., New York City.

The happy adventures of three very small playmates are described in this charmingly illustrated book which is addressed to children.

**Designing with Wild Flowers.**

By Nettie S. Smith. Obtainable from the Girl Scout Equipment Service, 14 West 49th Street, New York. \$95.

"An excellent book has just come to our attention that will be of inestimable help to those timid souls who 'cant draw a straight line' and just know they can't create their own designs. It is *Designing with Wild Flowers* by Nettie S. Smith. The steps by which a naturalistic flower drawing may be conventionalized into simple patterns are made so interesting and so exciting that we wonder why we haven't had the fun of playing this game brought to our attention long before this. To us it looks as though Miss Smith might have been observing Dr. Vinal and Mr. Staples at their pranks and had put her observations into this charming book."—Reviewed by Chester G. Marsh.

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## Officers and Directors of the National Recreation Association

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